Friday, November 28, 2008 ★ Vol. 23 / No. 334 www.inquirer.net

'Young gunmen targeted Brits, Americans'

MUMBAI—THE YOUNG GUNMEN roaming the corridors of two luxury hotels in Mumbai were shooting wildly, but they knew exactly what sort of guests they intended to take hostage.

"They told everybody to stop and put their hands up and asked if there were any British or Americans," Alex Chamberlain, a British guest at the Oberoi Hotel, said after fleeing his captors via a fire escape.

YOUNG / A23

6 cops shot as gunmen burn 5 buses in Lingayen
ACROSS / A17

P3M in sack found in Cebu City dump
ACROSS / A19

Angelo Dundee sees many chinks in Pacquiao's armor
SPORTS / A37

PHILIPPINE DAILY
INQUIRER
BUSINESS NEWS, FEATURES, VIEWS

Another Hanjin worker dies, the 15th since 2006
NEWS / A24

MUMBAI INFERNO

FIVE-STAR NIGHTMARE The luxurious Taj Mahal Palace and Tower hotel was one of the 10 sites in Mumbai, India's financial capital, simultaneously attacked by heavily armed men late Wednesday night. At press time, the fire had been placed under control. (Inset at left) TV grab from India TV shows one of the assailants armed with automatic weapons and grenades. AFP

101 die in terror attacks

MUMBAI, INDIA—THEY showed up on Wednesday, as they do every night: businessmen for meetings in the elegant restaurant that overlooks the harbor, politicians for cocktails in a bar with velvet seats and wood and marble floors, friends for a steak dinner by the pool.

But then the shooting started.

Explosions followed in and around the Taj Mahal Palace and Tower—a Mumbai landmark with sweeping staircases, onyx columns and high elaborate ceilings, known as the playground of the city's elite since it opened in 1903.

101 DIE / A23

AFTER THE SIEGE Terrorists also hit the city's main train station leaving behind a mess of travel-related possessions hastily abandoned by their owners and pools of human blood. REUTERS

World leaders condemn killings

WORLD LEADERS YESTERDAY CONdemned the attacks by gunmen in India's commercial hub Mumbai.

US President George W. Bush: "President Bush offers his condolences to the Indian people and the families of the innocent civilians killed and injured in the attacks in Mumbai," the White House said in a statement.

US President-elect Barack Obama: "President-elect Obama strongly condemns today's terrorist attacks in Mumbai," Brooke Anderson, Obama's spokesperson on national secu-

WORLD / A23

Thai airports under state of emergency

BANGKOK—THAI PRIME MINISTER Somchai Wongsawat declared a state of emergency at two Bangkok airports besieged by antigovernment protesters, a deputy minister said on Thursday, as rumors of an imminent Army coup swirled through the capital.

Deputy Agriculture Minister Thirachai Sukhasee said that police would be in charge of the Suvarnabhumi and the old Don Muang airports blockaded by the People's Alliance for Democracy (PAD).

"The Cabinet agreed to use the emergency decree at the two airports to bring the situation back to normal," Thirachai told Reuters after a Cabinet meeting.

THAI AIRPORTS / A23

Economy grew 4.6% in 3rd quarter

By Michelle V. Reyes and Doris C. Dumlao

THE PHILIPPINE ECONOMY GREW 4.6 percent in the third quarter, a slowdown from the 7.1-percent growth registered in the same period in 2007, the National Statistical Coordination Board (NSCB) said yesterday.

The growth, however, was at the high-end of the National Economic and Development Authority's estimate of between 3.8 percent and 4.6 percent for the quarter.

"The Philippine economy has been damaged but not quite ravaged by the global financial turmoil and high oil prices," the NSCB said in a statement.

Partly aided by a higher-than-expected gross domestic product (GDP) growth and weak demand for foreign exchange, the peso yesterday rallied back to the 48 level against the US dol-

ECONOMY / A13

800 Pinoys stranded at Bangkok's airport

By Noel Adia O. Velasco

BANGKOK—AT LEAST 800 FILIPINOS were still stranded at Thailand's main international airport here as their flights to Manila remained canceled yesterday, two days after antigovernment protesters rushing to oust Prime Minister Somchai Wongsawat stormed and occupied the terminal.

Philippine Airlines personnel at the Suvarnabhumi International Airport told the Inquirer that all PAL flights

800 PINOYS / A23

Cory: Be not afraid; God will do the rest

By Fe Zamora

"BE NOT AFRAID."

This, according to former President Corazon Aquino, was the lesson she learned from her devotion to confessor the diocesan Presbyteral Masses in the 1986 snap election.

"Looking back, I can only wonder where I got the guts to go head-to-head against Marcos and his vaunted political machinery," she said yesterday in a symposium on heroism held on the occasion of the

CORY / A4

EX-PRESIDENT CORY unveils Miriay postal stamps. (JOAN BONDOC)

JDV recalls 'the night of the hundred knives'

(Editor's Note: In the following excerpts from the book "Global Filipino: The Authorized Biography of Jose de Venecia Jr., the Visionary Five-Time Speaker of the House of Representatives of the Philippines," De Venecia links members of the First Family to the removal from the post of Speaker.

The book was written by American journalist Brett M. Decker, a former editor and editorial page writer for the Wall Street Journal in Hong Kong who has served on the editorial board of the Washington Times.)

IT WAS A YEAR, NOT JUST A season, of deception. The political execution of Jose de Venecia by the conspiracy led by the President, her husband, and

two sons was painful and horrifying.

To the trained mind, the signs of danger did not materi-

JDV RECALLS / A13

Where's the beef? 'Twas 'good' and 'tender' in LA

THE "BEEF"—BY ACCOUNTS "GOOD" and "tender"—was in Los Angeles, while in Manila, the chair of the House committee on justice wants all and sundry to know that it has no blood on its hands.

A day after her allies in the House killed the fourth impeachment complaint against her, a "happy" President Macapagal-Arroyo treated select members of the Filipino community in Los Angeles to lunch.

BEEF'S / A5

House urged to probe reports of payoffs in hotel

By Leila B. Salaverria

TWO LAWMAKERS FROM OPPOSING camps are in agreement over one thing: The House of Representatives should look into the purported meeting at a hotel where payoffs were made in relation to the latest impeachment complaint against President Macapagal-Arroyo.

According to reports, lawmakers converged on the Linden Suites in Ortigas Center early this week to receive payoffs in exchange for junking the impeachment complaint. The complaint was declared insufficient in substance on Wednesday by a 42-8 vote.

Quezon City Rep. Matias Defensor, chair of the House committee on justice, yesterday expressed the belief that the issue was part of black propaganda. But he said he could not identify the source.

"This is trying to destroy the House of Representatives," Defensor said at the Sorpe forum in Quezon City.

He said he wanted the issue investigat-

HOUSE / A4

WEATHER FORECAST

TODAY: Northern and Central Luzon and Southern Mindanao will experience mostly cloudy skies with scattered rainshowers and thunderstorms. The rest of the country will have partly cloudy to cloudy skies with isolated rains.

Metro Manila	Mostly Cloudy	Metro Cebu	Partly Cloudy
Baguio	Mostly Cloudy	Davao	Partly Cloudy
Tuguegarao	Mostly Cloudy	Cotabato	Partly Cloudy
Legazpi	Mostly Cloudy	Iloilo	Partly Cloudy
Puerto Princesa	Mostly Cloudy	Zamboanga	Partly Cloudy
Virac	Partly Cloudy	Cagayan de Oro	Partly Cloudy
Catarman	Partly Cloudy	Butuan	Mostly Cloudy

Second FRONTPAGE

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Con-ass foes in House close ranks

Satur resolution rallies opposition against pro-Cha-cha allies of GMA

By Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.

MEMBERS OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES are crossing party lines to block the efforts of President Macapagal-Arroyo's allies to bring about Charter change through a constituent assembly (Con-ass).

Adding more to the growing opposition to the Con-ass are members of the political parties of contenders to the presidency in 2010—former President Joseph Estrada's Partido ng Masang Pilipino, Sen. Mar Roxas' Liberal Party, Sen. Francis Escudero's Nacionalista Peoples Coalition, and Sen. Manuel Villar's Nationalista Party.

Party-list representatives led by Satur Ocampo of Bayan Muna yesterday filed House Resolution No. 668 "expressing support and all moves to amend the 1987 Constitution before the 2010 elections, including the proposed convening of Congress into a constituent assembly."

"A proposal to change the presidential and unitary form of government before the 2010 elections will merely play into the hands of those pushing to perpetuate (Ms Arroyo) in power," the resolution said.

According to the resolution, "some proponents of Charter change are trying to deceive the people by alleging that Congress can limit the amendments that may be tackled by the (Con-ass)."

It was a reference to Speaker Prospero Nograles' HR 737 seeking to amend the Charter's economic provisions (which has garnered 103 signatures) and an unreleased resolution being pushed by Cagayan de Oro Rep. Lou Alfiboro, Leyte Rep. Martin Romualdez and Pampanga Rep. Jose Miguel Arroyo calling for a Con-ass with Congress voting as one and not two chambers (which has reportedly garnered 126 signatures).

HR 668 said Nograles' proposal would "make the country more vulnerable to the global economic recession, open up the nation to further control and plunder by foreign economic powers, and exacerbate the economic crisis and mass poverty."

It also described Batangas Rep. Hermilando Mandanas' HR 830 calling for a one-year term extension of all elected officials as "patently self-serving and abhorred by the people."

Extension bill withdrawn

La Union Rep. Victor Dangwa, chair of the House committee on constitutional amendments, has claimed that Mandanas' bill was withdrawn in August.

Bayan Muna Rep. Teodoro Casiño said HR 668 would "serve as a rumbling block ... to outwit the Con-cha express."

Ocampo said the resolution had gathered 23 of the targeted 80 signatures to guarantee that the pro-Charter change initiative would not get the necessary one-third vote of the 239-member House.

"We need to get additional signatories for the anti-Cha-cha before 2010. We are confident we can, and we are confident no one will withdraw their signatures," he said.

Aside from Ocampo and Casiño, the principal authors of HR 668 are Bohol Rep. Teodoro Galpeste III, Gabriela Representatives Liza Maza and Luzviminda Ilagan, Anakpawis Rep. Rafael Mariano, Cibac Representative Joel Villanueva and Gloilorin Cibac Representative Jocelyn Limkaichong, Kabayan Rep. Ron Salo, Marcos Rep. Imee Marcos, Bayan Muna Rep. Jose de Venecia Jr., among others.

The Makati Business Club (MBC) has joined the ranks of those opposed to Charter change, saying the government should focus on the economy rather than moves to prolong the hold on power of Ms Arroyo and other elected officials.

Worst financial crisis

The MBC said in a statement that the world was experiencing its worst financial crisis in decades and the Philippines would not be spared in ill effects.

"The full extent of the negative impact on our economy has yet to unfold," it said. "Given such circumstances, what the country needs is a government that has the fundamental change of the fundamental law but a strong and credible leadership that enjoys the support of the people." With reports from Jerome D. Laylo and Jhesset O. Enano

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No one complained on Senate posts — JPE

By Christine O. Avendaño

SENATE PRESIDENT JUAN Ponce Enrile yesterday dismissed as a fabrication claims made by five senators that the members of the majority had complained to him about the way committee assignments were distributed.

Enrile said members of the majority had selected the committees they wanted to chair and that the outcome was the "product of a consensus."

"I wish those who are claiming there is dissatisfaction in the majority should name names because only Joey can. Johnny Ang sells yan. It's nothing but pure invention," Enrile told reporters before the start of committee floor deliberations of the proposed P1.4-trillion national budget for next year.

Except for major committees like blue ribbon and finance, the Senate has yet to complete its committee assignments following the outcry surrounding appointments of Sens. Manuel Villar Jr. and Jinggoy Estrada, both Enrile-allied bloc players.

The other day, Sen. Alan Peter Cayetano said "a number" of senators from the 14-member majority had complained to the six-member minority about the allocation of committee assignments.

Cayetano maintained yesterday that the minority had heard complaints from three majority senators, adding that he had "texted new revelations" with several senators belonging to that group.

"They told me they were eyeing a group already got more committees than the others," Cayetano told the Inquirer in a phone interview. But he refused to go into details.

"Those will tell," he said, adding that with the way the committee chairmanships were being allocated, it was "illogical" to think that no one would be complaining.

Saying that nobody had come to him to complain, Enrile said he had an understanding with the majority when he accepted its offer to lead the chamber that they would have "no open, transparent distribution of all positions."

For her part, Sen. Loren Legarda, who now heads the agriculture and health committees, said she had talked to some of her fellow majority members and they had no complaints.

Lying will earn you detention, Joc-joc told

By Christine O. Avendaño and Dona Pazolagan

HOSPITOL LIED YESTERDAY FOR- mer Agriculture Undersecretary Jocelyn "Joc-joc" Bolante he would be detained if he tried to "lie and evade" answering their questions at the resumption of the hearing today into the alleged P728-million fertilizer fund scam.

Most agitated director of the Department of Agriculture (DA) ordered to conduct the bidding for the fertilizer funds intended for farmers were mildred Jun before the May 2004 presidential elections.

Senators said they expected "more breakthroughs" as today's hearing on affidavits of the Agri-Business Marketing Association (ABMA) had also been invited to testify on the mysterious bank accounts that Bolante was allegedly maintained.

Sen. Richard Gordon, chair of the blue ribbon committee, reminded Bolante to be more forthcoming today as he disclosed that his committee already had more than the required majority to have him cited for contempt.

On Tuesday, Sen. Panfilo Lacson sought to have Bolante, alleged by the the architect of the diversion of the fertilizer funds to supporters of President Macapagal-Arroyo, cited for contempt for "not telling the truth" in the past two hearings.

The committee did not act on the contempt recommendation on Tuesday because Bolante was scheduled to appear today before the Court of Appeals where his lawyers had filed a habeas corpus petition following his detainment seven days his arrest last month from the United States.

But Gordon believes the appellate court would "favor itself." Bolante's habeas corpus petition on he was not under arrest, but merely "under the protective custody of the Senate."

"He could go out freely, he could go outside. I am told by the sergeant at arms that he can drive up wherever he wanted," he said.

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- Cristina Gonzalez-Romualdez

JDV sees better impeachment chances in SC

By Leila B. Salaverria and Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.

BELIEVING THAT THERE'S a "street component" element that the impeachment complaint against President Macapagal-Arroyo will survive a House plenary vote, Pangasinan Rep. Jose de Venecia now wants to shift the impeachment battleground to the Supreme Court.

The complaint filed by his son, Jose JD or Joey, and several others was overwhelmingly rejected by the House justice committee on Wednesday by a 42 to 8 vote. The committee decision will be up for voting by all House members on Tuesday but the minority has already conceded that it does not have the numbers to overturn it.

De Venecia said he had proposed to the impeachment proponents that they file a case before the Supreme Court questioning the justice committee's decision declaring the complaint insufficient in substance.

Party-list Rep. Risa Hontiveros has said the also intends to go to the high court because of what she said was the committee's violation of its own rules.

Zeroes 50 percent

De Venecia said that the impeachment would have a "50-percent fighting chance" in the Supreme Court while it had "zero chance" in the justice committee and House plenary.

Even if the high court is packed with appointees of the President, he said Chief Justice Reynato Puno and Justices Antonio Carpio, Leonardo Quisumbing, Conchita Carpio Morales and several others were "principled people."

De Venecia will not be around to watch his colleagues bury the impeachment complaint next week as he will be in the United States for the launch of his biography in several US cities.

In the book, "Global Filipinos," written by Americans including Brett Decker, an editor at the Asian Wall Street Journal, the ousted Speaker details what he knows of allegedly corrupt practices in the Arroyo administration.

Administration Rep. Abraham Mitra scoffed at the idea that De Venecia would join street protests against the dismissal of the impeachment complaint.

"For JDV to become a poster boy for good government is like Erap (Joseph Estrada) asking for Rolled Peace Pens or the respected Ramon Revilla Jr. serving as a spokesman for the mandatory policy," Mitra said in a statement.

The Palawan congressman said he doubted De Venecia had the capability to attract any followers to march with him.

"So will empowering Filipinos should march behind him. And an ease-oriented group that cherishes its heritage should allow him to re-unite," he said.

Meanwhile, in a last-ditch attempt to save the impeachment complaint, Arroyo's party-list Rep. Rufus Rodriguez has called for the inhibition of all congressmen who allegedly received fertilizer funds and people from Malacañang from voting in the plenary session on Tuesday.

Still hopeful

Rodriguez said he remained hopeful that he could appeal to the House members' sense of delicadeza (propriety) by asking the resignation of the heads to inhibit themselves.

He plans to call out on the floor the names of the recipients of the P728-million fertilizer fund scam and the P180-million cash gifts on Tuesday.

The two camps are among the camps of action clad in the impeachment complaint.

Rodriguez attempted to call for the inhibition of up to 22 members of the justice committee who, according to a Commission on Audit report, benefited from the fertilizer scheme in 2004 during Wednesday's hearing but he was voted down by the majority.

Another party-list representative, Liza Maza, moved to disqualify the recipients of the fertilizer-funding payola but she too was outvoted.

"Deliberative, honest and dignity dictate that any member who stands as a co-accused in this case must inhibit himself and be disqualified from the proceedings. They vote to junk the impeach complaint; now you vote to absolve the Arroyo and themselves," Maza also said.

List of representatives who voted for, against impeachment complaint

HERE IS THE OFFICIAL LIST from the House of Representatives justice committee of those who voted for and against the dismissal of the impeachment complaint against President Macapagal-Arroyo for unwillingness in inheritance.

Against dismissing the complaint: Minority Leader and Sen. Juan Rep. Ronaldo Zamora, Deputy Minority Leader and Bayan Muna Rep. Satur Ocampo, Gabriela Rep. Liza Maza, Bayan Muna Rep. Teodoro Casiño, Bayan Muna Rep. Teodoro Casiño, Bayan Muna Rep. Teodoro Casiño

'Do not leave solution of corruption to corrupt execs'

By Ernesto Ovejas, Inquirer Central Luzon, and Donna Pazzibugan

CITY OF SAN FERNANDO—CORRUPTION is the country's biggest problem, said Bishop Bishop Socrates Villegas as he urged the Catholic faithful to fight it in order to save the nation.

"I appeal to the consciences of our country men. Do not leave the solution of graft and corruption to corrupt officials. Our problem cannot be our solution. We cannot position faith in God and not get angry at widespread graft and corruption," he said.

"This problem must be faced courageously now. We are making the life of our nation if we continue to ignore it," said Villegas in a statement he issued to mark the 26th birth anniversary of the martyred opposition leader Benigno "Ninoy" Aquino Jr. yesterday. (See story on Page 2.)

He said it was not enough to be outraged by graft and corruption. "Faith in God and outrage at sin go together" and that courage must also lead to action, he said.

"If we are not outraged by the sin of stealing that is happening all over our once beautiful land, could it be that our faith has turned cold and unmoving? If our faith has turned cold and unmoving, how can you be saved? Fight corruption or lose your soul," he said.

Villegas said the corruption had reached "abominable and embarrassing proportions."

"It is not only individual or isolated persons who corrupt and get corrupted. The present system—the elected and the electors, the employees and the employers, the appointed and the appointing powers—has become so corrupt that what we do need is a radical, systemic, invasive change," he said.

Meanwhile, another bishop yesterday said the congressional allies of President Macapagal-Arroyo "trashed" the Church hierarchy when they junked the latest impeachment complaint.

Puerto Princesa Bishop Pedro Arigo expressed his outrage at how the administration representatives were "talking for granted" the many calls made by the Catholic Bishops Conference of the Philippines (CBCP) to "let the truth out" about the allegedly corrupt deals of the Arroyo administration.

Honasan eyes probe of oil firms

WITH THE BIG OIL COMPANIES NOT moving to cut their pump prices further, the vice chair of the Senate energy committee said he would demand an explanation from the firms on why they were not rolling back their prices in the midst the continued slump in world oil prices.

Sen. Gregorio Honasan said he would summon the oil companies to a hearing in December, possibly before the Christmas break.

"We will tell them, it's okay if you make a profit, but not too much and not to the detriment of the public interest," he said.

He said the hearing would also try "to find out how we can lower ourselves not only for the energy sector but the industries in oil prices that affects almost all aspects of our economy."

Sen. Loren Legarda called on the Big 3, Chevron, Shell and Petron to follow the example of United Petroleum Phil., which slashed prices of gasoline by P6 a liter and of diesel by P4 a liter the other day.

"But in the south, Shell oil prices had hit below $50 a barrel, yet we do not see a commensurate rollback in the local pump prices of gasoline and diesel," said Legarda. Christine G. Avendaño

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Malaysia to pull out last of peace monitors

KUALA LUMPUR—MALAYSIA WILL PULL OUT the remainder of its peacekeepers in the southern Philippines this month, the foreign minister said here Thursday, signaling the collapse of stalled peace talks between the Philippine government and the secessionist Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF).

Malaysia began withdrawing 40 counterfire monitors from Mindanao in April because of frustration over the lack of progress in the talks.

But it left at least 12 peacekeepers with the International Monitoring Team (IMT) that included both military and noncilitary personnel from Brunei, Libya and Japan.

Answering foreign Minister Rais Yatim said in a statement that Malaysia will halt its participation when its current peacekeeping mandate ends on June 30.

"Malaysia is prepared to consider future participation... when there is progress in the peace process and a formal request is made" by both sides, Rais said.

Malaysia remains supportive of the peace process and hopes that both sides can live dialogue and negotiation in bringing about a peaceful solution to Mindanao's problem," the statement added.

Malaysia had been brokering the peace negotiations between Manila and the MILF, which has been battling for self-rule in the predominantly Catholic Philippines' rebellion-torn for decades.

The peacekeeping team has been credited with easing violence clashes. Under a 2003 ceasefire, clashes dropped from up to 700 a year to just 15 last year.

The government suspended talks with the rebels in August after three rogue MILF commanders went on a bloody rampage, killing dozens in predominantly Christian communities.

The rebels said they were frustrated after the Supreme Court scrapped a preliminary autonomy deal for minority Muslims, ruling it was unconstitutional.

Malaysian forces had made up the bulk of the IMT.

The move comes despite the Philippine government formally asking Malaysia to keep its troops in the country another three months.

Almost 700 people have been killed in about three months of fighting between security forces and rogue members of the MILF. The conflict has displaced more than 650,000 people, prompting calls for the two sides to return to peace negotiations.

Mohagher Iqbal, MILF chief peace negotiator, said the group was worried rebel-on-rebel fighting escalate and spread to the south following the departure of the monitors.

"Some people here might see the withdrawal as a signal to step up military operations against the MILF," he told Reuters.

Manila hoped Malaysia would reconsider its decision.

"We're still to talk with the rebel leaders in some in an agreement to ask Malaysia and other states contributing to the monitoring team for another extension," said Cesario Montano, an official in the president's peace process office. AP, Reuters, AFP

3 charged in test case of new antiterror law

POLICE HAVE CHARGED three bombing suspects with terrorism, a prosecutor said Thursday—the first time authorities had relied on a new law that mandates excessive fines for improper detention.

Three members of the Al Khobar group were charged with violating the Human Security Act for their alleged involvement in a bombing that wounded seven people in May in Midsayap, North Cotabato, state prosecutor Al Calleo said.

Al Khobar is a known extortion group. It is not specifically linked to any militant group active in areas of Mindanao riven by a Muslim separatist rebellion for decades.

The three suspects remain at large and will be hunted down once the court in Midsayap issues arrest warrants, Calleo said.

Justice Undersecretary Ricardo Blancaflor said the case will serve as a test case for the antiterror law.

President Macapagal-Arroyo, a key backer of the US-led global war on terrorism, signed the law in July 2007 to bolster the campaign against al-Qaida-linked militants, particularly to withdraw.

The law defines terrorism as any of at least 12 violent crimes, including rebellion, bombings, murder and kidnappings. Its critics, that cause widespread fear and are designed to force the government to give in to unlawful demands.

The Midsayap bombing stirred public fear and anger. The militants demanded a monthly payment of P300,000 from the local government to spare the town from bombings—two elementary police should pursue before they conclusive a crime as act of terrorism, Calleo said.

Many law enforcers have been wary of trying to convictions under the antiterror law because of a P500,000 fine that can be imposed on individual officers for each day of wrongful detention, Calleo said. The fine is intended as a safeguard against police abuses.

Police have instead charged some suspects with common crimes like murder, he said. AP

Comelec: Vote on Quezon division to push through

By Kristine L. Alave

THE SUPREME COURT'S 72HOUR temporary restraining order (TRO) on the proclamation of the result of the coming plebiscite on the division of Quezon province will not stop the Commission on Elections (Comelec) from holding the vote, a commissioner said yesterday.

Commissioner Nicodemo Ferrer said the injunction did not bar the Comelec from proceeding with the Dec. 15 plebiscite. It only referred to the proclamation of the result, he said.

"It does not stop us from holding a plebiscite. The ballots are printed and the personnel are ready. We might as well proceed," he said in a telephone interview.

The Comelec, however, will not release the result of the vote in accordance with the Supreme Court injunction, he said.

The high tribunal recently issued the injunction on the plebiscite that seeks to divide Quezon into two provinces— Quezon del Norte and Quezon del Sur. The petitioners said the ban on the plebiscite violated their rights.

Ferrer said the Comelec had already spent a lot on preparations for the vote.

According to Comelec Chair Jose Melo, the plebiscite will cost P612.945 million.

Even if anti-plebiscite groups push anew for a stop to the vote before the Supreme Court, Ferrer said it would be unlikely the poll agency would halt the voting.

He noted that Congress had passed a law on the conduct of the plebiscite and it had ordered the Comelec to hold it 60 days after the law's publication.

"In the advent that the SC issues a TRO against the plebiscite, we still have to proceed because there is a law which binds [Congress]... otherwise we will be violating the law," Ferrer said.

Despite the Supreme Court order preventing the Comelec from announcing the result of the plebiscite, Rep. Lorenzo "Erin" Tañada III (LP, 4th District), one of the drafters of Quezon province, interpreted the order as a "partial victory."

"It's a partial victory for the proponents of creating a Quezon del Sur. The petitioners failed to convince the Supreme Court to stop the conduct of the plebiscite," Tañada said in a mobile phone interview Thursday. With a report from Delfin T. Mallari Jr., Inquirer Southern Luzon

Coast Guard officers probed in 'Princess' sinking

By Alcuin Papa

THE OMBUDSMAN OPENED YESTERDAY a preliminary investigation of three Philippine Coast Guard (PCG) officers in the sinking of the MV Princess of the Stars in June.

The Ombudsman's Field Investigation Office (FIO) identified the respondents as PCG National Capital Region-Eastern Commander Luis Tuason, Manila Harbor Commander Erwin Balagsa and Duty Officer Lt. Felix Rizalde Sandoza aboard the Manila Station.

In a statement, Assistant Ombudsman Mark Adandeol said yesterday the three had been charged with violations of Republic Act No. 3019, the Anti-Graft and Corrupt Practices Act, and gross neglect of duty under Civil Service Commission rules.

The Ombudsman's opened the investigation despite its flight to gather vital documents.

In its fact-finding report on the incident, the Ombudsman said the three "did not faithfully perform their duties and responsibilities in the enforcement of maritime safety laws, particularly rules and regulations on the movement of sea vessels in bad weather."

The report cited a PSG recommendation that says no vessel shall be allowed to sail when typhoon signals 3 or 4 had been hoisted in its point of origin, route or destination, except to take shelter.

The same memo places the responsibility for monitoring weather conditions on the commanders of PCG stations.

Yet, the Ombudsman said, the three still allowed the Princess of the Stars to sail for Cebu despite the warnings issued by the Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration (Pagasa) on the approach of Typhoon "Frank."

The three, the Ombudsman said, failed to monitor Frank's movement and to realize the Princess of the Stars was sailing into the typhoon.

"They committed in the very least gross unforgivable negligence when they failed to perform faithfully the duties required of them during typhoon Frank.

"Their acts caused undue injury to the people of Bonddoc whose lives and livelihood were gravely affected; to the marine environment whose fragile ecosystem was gravely endangered; to the bereaved families who lost their loved ones when the Princess of the Stars sank off Sibuyan Island in Bonddoc and above all to public safety and national interest," Adandeol said.

The three could face criminal and administrative charges. If found guilty, they face dismissal from the service and six-year jail terms.

The sinking of the ferry on June 21 left some 700 passengers dead and missing.

A Board of Marine Inquiry overlooked the human error on the part of the ship's captain and crew caused the tragedy.

Comelec aims for 1 million overseas voters

By Kristine L. Alave

THE COMMISSION ON ELECTIONS is aiming to register one million overseas Filipino workers (OFWs) to allow them to participate in the 2010 national elections.

Nicodemus Ferrer, the commissioner in charge of overseas absentee voting, said the poll body was working to double the 500,000 OFWs that registered for the 2007 mid-term elections.

"One million is our target. We have in our favor the fact that 2010 is a national election. We will be electing a president so we hope that the OFWs will be interested in participating," Ferrer said.

Though Comelec data showed that there had been a consistent increase in the number of OFWs participating in Philippine elections, the number was still below expectations.

Comelec records showed 14 percent and 26 percent of registered OFWs voted in 2004 and 2007, respectively.

Ferrer also said that the poll body had postponed the registration for overseas absentee voters by two months.

Instead of the registration starting on Dec. 1, the date has been moved to Feb. 1, according to a Comelec resolution issued yesterday. Registration ends on May 31.

Ferrer said the registration dates had to be moved back because some data capturing machines posted abroad were found to be defective and had to be sent back to Manila for repairs.

The Department of Foreign Affairs and the Comelec also noted that "there is not enough time and resources to send the needed data-capturing machines and peripherals to the posts concerned," according to the resolution.

Remotest Abra town to finally get police protection

RESIDENTS OF TINEG, THE REMOTEST town in Abra, will soon get to sleep soundly at night with their very own law enforcers patrolling the municipality that has long been plagued by unabated political violence.

For the first time in the town's history, a permanent police station will rise in its midst to bring back the law to the town. Philippine National Police Director General Jesus Verzosa told reporters during a "media night" he hosted at Camp Crame Wednesday.

Late reformers hailed a hard line debarring the violence in the small town of about 6,000 residents because of the presence of communist rebels, political warlords and gun-for-hire syndicates, Verzosa said.

Abra has been consistently declared an election hotspot by the government because of its violent political culture.

"Nobody ever tried to put up a police station there but it's about time to address the local people's security in line with the PNP's transformation program," Verzosa said in an interview.

A platoon of policemen or about 30 personnel will man the police station which will rise in Barangay Alaas. The PNP has set its inauguration on Dec. 6. Jocelyn R. Uy

Follow Thais, 2 bishops tell Pinoys

By Jaime M. Aurelio and Jocelyn R. Uy

TWO CATHOLIC BISHOPS YESTERday called on the Filipino people to show their disgust in the passing of an impeachment complaint against President Maciapagal-Arroyo by her allies in Congress by launching protests similar to what has unfolded in Thailand's capital of Bangkok.

"We are so disappointed with the [ending of the case] ... If there are no more legal means, then we resort to malcabagat or extraconstitutional means," Bishop Deogracias Iñiguez told journalists in Quezon City.

"Let us show that we do not approve of what is happening and that we don't like it. Even that means that it's destabilization" is that necessarily rebellion?" Bishop Iñiguez Tobias said in Filipino.

Iñiguez and Tobias of the Kilusang Mabuhayang Ekonomiya (KME), together with Albayan Rep. Edcel Lagman, held a press conference in Quezon City after the House of Representatives' committee on justice junked the impeachment charges against the President for graft/bribery/corruption.

The charges stemmed from Mr Arroyo's alleged role in the controlled $329-million National Broadband Network deal with China's ZTE Corp., the "Hello Garci" scandal, the $728-million fertilizer scam, the Northrail deal, extrajudicial killings, the gold re-serves scandal for Mr. Dieudonné and the 9% billion Quedancor/ane scam.

The KME is not included a position on the Impeachment Motion in Quezon City on Sunday, Nov 28, to commemorate the birthday of late Andres Bonifacio, with Chief Justice Reynato Puno as keynote speaker. The bishops said they hoped that it would eventually lead to bigger mass actions.

Asked by a reporter if he sensed the rank-and-file Pampanga people to happen to Manila, Tobias did not hesitate. "Gumaw sa mga iyan! (That's it!)."

The Novaliches bishop said the President must be made accountable for the charges hurled at her. "She has not yet proved that she is the legal president ... Until she does, I will not bow to her," Tobias said.

Some airports in Bangkok have been closed down by antigovernment protesters demanding the resignation of Thai Prime Minister Somchai Pangsawat. (Story on Page A7.)

Gen. Alexander Yano, Armed Forces chief of staff, played down the political crisis at the Thai capital, saying that the Philippine military was monitoring the situation but was not ready to resort to "quick fixes" to the problem. PAGRIBU, Thailand's Army commander, Anupong Paochinda, is asking the branded government to step down and hold a snap election.

"I would just like to urge everybody, not just the soldiers and other sectors of the country, to let our constitutional processes work as they are working and let us make the necessary moves without resorting to quick fixes," Yano told reporters on the sidelines of the celebration of the 71st anniversary of the AFP chaplain service at Camp Aguinaldo yesterday.

Cory: Be not afraid; God will do the rest

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Noh birthday of her husband Ninoy Aquino.

She said, "The moral of the story is simply this: Be not afraid to do something you believe in. Stay true to yourself and your faith, and God will do the rest."

Cory led the unveiling of the special commemorative stamps in honor of her late husband whose assassination in 1983 sparked massive protests that led to the ouster of Marcos in February 1986 and swept for widow into power.

The issuance of the commemorative stamps was decided by a committee in the PhilPost and the Bantayog ng Agapay sa Pinoydadan. The P20- and P7-denomination stamps were among the Ninoy items sold on the sidelines of the symposium.

It was the former President's first public appearance since the 25th death anniversary of her husband on Aug. 21. Visibly pale and thinner, Cory has been undergoing treatment for cancer.

The symposium was organized by Bantayog ng Agapay, a movement to inform the youth about the ideals and heroism of Ninoy Aquino, an opposition senator who was shot while escorted by a group of soldiers on his arrival at Manila's international airport that nine hours his name.

"Ninoy is more relevant now more than ever," Cory said, addressing some 600 students gathered at the Hotelica Garden Conservatory in the De la Salle University (DLSU) in Manila.

"When a critical mass of young people take on a cause, you can be sure that change or a dramatic scale is underway," she said, citing the recent election of Barack Obama as president of the United States.

She also cited the experiences of her husband, who was a war correspondent at 17 and senator at 34, the youngest ever in the Philippine history at that time.

Tarot limits

However, Cory refrained from commenting on President Macapagal-Arroyo, whom she asked to resign at the height of the "Hello Garci" scandal more than two years ago.

But the opening prayer of the symposium said it all.

"Lord, do not lengthen anymore any term limits of the politicians," Sen. Bernie Ong said, apparently in response to the prayer of Prime Minister Duterte during the Malacañang meeting last week.

In his prayer, Duterte asked that Ms Arroyo be allowed to stay on as President after her term ends in 2016.

Malacañang maintained what Duterte said was just a "prayer" and should not be construed as a plan to extend Ms Arroyo's term.

The Palace also maintained that Ms Arroyo would step down in 2016, despite moves by her allies in the House of Representatives to convene Congress into a constituent assembly to amend the Constitution.

Another resolution called for the scrapping of the 2013 elections, and extending the term of elected officials, Ms Arroyo included, until 2013.

Sen. Jamby Lizares, who led the opposition in the group for Ms Arroyo to resign, said the "sentiment of the groups" calling for her resignation has not changed.

Lizares said he was appalled by former Agricultural Undersecretary Jocelyn "Joc-joc" Bolante. "who was lying on national television and the people are the victims is an one of those [things]."

Bolante is accused of masterminding the use of P728 million in fertilizer fund for the campaign of Ms Arroyo in the 2004 presidential election.

"I've been very distressed and saddened. I've been thinking myself 'asan 'Ninoy's dreams betrayed?'" Lizares said.

He said he opposed any plan to extend the term of Ms Arroyo.

"More changing of a president is not the answer to the problems, but neither is resorting to power because that is not a perpetuation of the same corruption," he said.

The symposium capped the weeklong program launched by De La Salle University to promote the ideals of the late opposition senator.

The symposium on heroism featured movie actor Dingdong Dantes, founder of SALUTA (Salamang Inyong Dapat Suportahan) Foundation; TV reporter Anne Aranilla; Bagel Bilaan Management Committee Member Rene Bonaobra and Bantayog Chairman Ed Garcia in becoming for Nicomedes, Elvin Ky.

House urged to probe reports of payoffs in hotel

From page A1

ol but that he would salute not be the one to file the motion.

It appears Belmonte's request will be honored soon enough.

Gabriela Rep. Liza Maza told reporters that she would initiate next week the House investigation of the alleged meeting at the Linden Suites.

Maza said she would include a call to look into the purported bribery of lawmakers and large government officials last year, also in relation to an impeachment complaint against Ms Arroyo.

Pampanga Gov. Ed Panlilio and, lately, Pangasinan Rep. Jose de Venecia are among those who claimed to have received the amount of P500,000.

"This issue of the bribery in Malacañang has never been subjected to a full-blown investigation," Maza pointed out.

She also said she wanted to look into the alleged meeting in the Linden Suites because when she brought it up during the impeachment hearings in Congress from the majority rose to say that no such gathering had taken place or to deny having received money.

Belmonte explained that he was unaware of a meeting at the Linden Suites and said he had not been invited to one.

He said he only learned about it when he spoke to Pampanga Pangasinan solon Mike Arroyo during the plenary session in that effect. He said neither of them knew anything about the matter except what had been reported in the news.

Belmonte, however, said he knew that former Negros Oriental Rep. Jacinto Paras had a reservation on the hotel's second floor that was occasionally patronized by lawmakers.

He said he even planned Paras to ask if there was any meeting of lawmakers going on, and the latter disclaimed knowledge of any such assembly.

Belmonte said he also spoke with his colleagues, such as Davao del Sur Rep. Antonio Cerilles, Mañana City Rep. Del de Guzman and Isabela Rep. Rodolfo Albano, who said they knew nothing of a Linden Suites gathering.

"We even joked about it, reminiscing about it," Ordóñez said.

Surigao Rep. Jose Solis also said he was an mouth in the dark about the purported meeting.

Where's the beef? 'Twas 'good' and 'tender' in LA

From page A1

Ms Arroyo had just come from Colombia where she had a media-saturated meeting with President Alvaro Uribe in the famous tourist spot of Cartagena.

She appeared relieved to be rid of political troubles at home, although Press Secretary Jesus Dureza declined to confirm if she had been told of the death of the impeachment complaint.

"She's OK. She was happy to see the Filipinos," Dureza told the Inquirer after the invitation-only luncheon at the Westin's Gateway Hotel highlighted by the performance of an all-Filipino male singing group.

"Good steaks! Beef was served," Dureza said.

It was unclear if he was poking fun at Iloilo Rep. Exequiel Javier's question during the Tuesday discussion at the House on the substance of the impeachment complaint: "Where's the beef?"

Earlier, Executive Secretary Eduardo Ermita said the President had been informed of the fate of the complaint but that he did not know how she reacted to the news.

Just showing 'em

On Santo grounds, Quezon City Rep. Bienvenido Abante, the chair of the House justice committee, said that when he raised his right hand during the Wednesday vote to kill the impeachment complaint or keep it alive, he was merely demonstrating to his colleagues how to signify their positions.

(Committee chairs are not supposed to vote, and can only do so in case of a tie.)

Defensor denied the explanations in response to questions triggered by pictures and TV footage showing him with right hand raised beside Representatives Ishmael Lagman and Hazel Del Mar, who were similarly poised.

Lagman said Del Mar was among the 42 lawmakers who pronounced the complaint insufficient in substance. They were substituted the eight lawmakers who declared the opposite.

"I did not vote," Defensor said at the Serve Forum in Quezon City. "When I told them to raise their right hand, I raised my right hand for them (to do the same). That is why I was shown doing that on TV and in the newspapers. But if you take a look at the vote, [you will see that] I am not included."

Defensor assailed critics of the committee's decision for "name-calling," and noted that the committee had even been branded a monkey with blood on its hands.

"I think we have to put this (issue) on a higher level of discussion," he said.

Tough cookie

Ms Arroyo was scheduled to arrive in Manila last night.

Asked about the prospects that she would be met by protests over the dismissal of the impeachment complaint and other issues, Undersecretary Ashimar Cabki said: "The President is tough. She has had issues (but continued) her administration. And she has been tough with regards to these, and we have seen how she handles everything."

Responding to a question, Cabki, who is the Arroyo's deputy spokesperson, said the junking of the complaint would serve as a good welcome for his boss.

"Of course, we will not be hypocrites. If we were placed in the situation, it's going to be a welcome outcome," he said.

Asked in Los Angeles if Ms Arroyo's journal record had something to do with the dismissal of the complaint, Dureza said his boss was "focused on her trip."

Dureza added: "We can't comment on (that because ... Cabki is there on the ground. He should make comments on that. We are only monitoring the situation [on TV and through phone calls]."

Numbers, argument

Congressman Defensor said he was willing to explain his committee's vote before any forum. He said it was his duty to do so as committee chair.

He also beheld the chances that the House plenary would overturn the committee report declaring the death of the impeachment complaint.

The impeachment proponents need 80 votes to resolve the complaint.

Said Defensor: "They will not be able to get 79 votes, not only because of the numbers but [also] because we put in a very strong argument.

"I think 2/3 to 3/4 votes [to junk the committee report] is plenty."

Lagman had identified the impeachment complaint as "bereft of the requisite ultimate facts."

But Bayan Rep. Teodoro Casiño accused administration lawmakers of playing "blind, deaf and mute" to the complaint.

Beneficial to outsourcing biz

Dureza said Ms Arroyo had also met with executives of Ingram Micro Inc., the world's largest technology distributor and leading technology marketing and logistics company.

He said the Ingram Micro officials "presented to the President their business expansion in the Philippines," and assured her that their investment in the country would continue despite the global recession.

"The crisis in the United States may even be beneficial in our outsourcing business. There's an indication from (Los Angeles) businessmen that there will be more demand for our (business process outsourcing) services because of their setbacks here," Dureza said.

He supposed that his boss was returning home confident that she was able to push the agenda of developing nations like the Philippines amid the global economic meltdown. *Reports from Michael Lim Ubac in Los Angeles, Leslie B. Salinas-Ruiz and TJ Burgonio in Manila*

Economy grew 4.6% in 3rd quarter

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lar for the first time in three weeks.

The peso gained P0.51 to close at the day's high of 48.80.

It was also on upbeat mode amid trading across the region and the influx of overseas Filipino remittances ahead of the Christmas season.

Overseas remittances are substantially increased toward the Christmas season, thus usually resulting in a yearend peso rally against the peso.

Other Asian currencies also strengthened against the US dollar yesterday on buoyant stock markets although jitters over a deadly blast in India and political turmoil in Thailand tempered their gains. In the Philippines, the stock market rose by 3.8 percent to close at 1,967.01.

Demand for forex

"The more sardonic the GDP (report), the peso would have appreciated because when there's no demand (for foreign exchange), inflows will drive the market," said Jose Emmanuel Hilado, treasurer at Land Commercial Banking Corp.

Since the start of the year, the peso has depreciated by 15.4 percent against the US dollar, a turnaround from the 19-percent appreciation in 2007 which made it the region's best performing currency.

The NSCB said "the slowest growth in GDP drew on the strong performances of manufacturing, construction and trade. On the demand side, household spending led the growth."

GDP is the total value of goods produced and services rendered within the country in a given period.

Third-quarter numbers brought the GDP growth for the first three quarters of 2008 to an average of 4.8 percent, NSCB secretary general Romulo Virola said at a press conference.

GNP up 6.5 percent

The NSCB also reported that gross national product (GNP), which includes income from abroad like remittance from overseas Filipinos workers, grew 6.1 percent in the third quarter, decelerating from 9.1 percent in the same period last year.

The Arroyo administration expects the Philippine economy to grow between 4.1 and 4.8 percent this year and between 3.7 and 4.7 percent in 2009.

But the International Monetary Fund has cut its 2008 growth forecast for the Philippines to 4.4 percent from 5.2 percent earlier this year.

Of the economy's three major sectors, only industry recorded a faster growth. It grew 7.1 percent in the third quarter from 6.6 percent in the same period a year ago.

Growth in the agriculture, fisheries and forestry sector slowed to 2.5 percent from 5.7 percent, while the services sector's expansion decelerated to 5.7 percent from 8 percent.

Construction grew 11 percent

The industry sector was boosted largely by the construction subsector, which grew 11.8 percent, slightly lower than 13.8 percent in the same period last year.

Officials said construction was supported by the government's move to increase spending on infrastructure, which was aimed at pump-priming the economy amid a global slowdown.

Compensation income earned by overseas Filipino workers, amounted to P270.6 billion in the third quarter, up 16 percent from P192.3 billion in the same period last year.

This was credited partly for the 6.8 percent growth in personal consumption, which the NSCB said was still encouraging although it was slower than the 7.7 percent in the third quarter of 2007.

Outperforming neighbors

Despite the slower growth in the third quarter, Economic Planning Secretary Ralph Recto said the figure was still decent and in fact made the Philippines outperform its neighbors.

Recto said the Philippines' third quarter growth was better than that of Taiwan (1 percent), Malaysia (4.2 percent), Thailand (4 percent), Indonesia, Singapore (4.1 percent), Hong Kong (1.7 percent), Indonesia, Armenia, pared a 6.1-percent GDP growth in the third quarter.

"The growth in the third quarter was aided by the aggressive push of government in public construction, both on the national and the local levels," Recto said.

Public infrastructure spending figured mostly on accelerating projects that have been delayed.

Spending on infrastructure

Finance Secretary Margarito Teves said the government would continue spending heavily on infrastructure to help ensure a decent growth despite the global financial crisis.

The United States and advanced economies in Europe have slipped into recession, an offshoot of the meltdown of their financial sectors. Several financial institutions in the United States and Europe have suffered from liquidity problems, and if not bankruptcies, becomes of heavy exposure to the subprime market.

The subprime market consists of high-risk borrowers of housing loans. Defaults by these borrowers turned many banks in the West to ask for big bailout support from their respective governments.

The financial problem was aggravated by the fact that many financial institutions invested in derivatives that are backed by subprime loans.

Because the United States and Europe are two of its biggest export markets, the Philippines' export income has suffered.

Risk aversion

In search of liquidity, some foreign investors withdrew their investments from emerging economies like the Philippines, thus affecting the local stock market and profitability of some local companies.

The peso sharply depreciated in the last few days, hitting as low as 50.17 against the US dollar, on heightened risk aversion across global markets.

Based on a report released by the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas governing coalition of foreign investments in Philippine stocks and bonds pertained in the first two weeks of November.

'Hot money'

About $109 million worth of "hot money" was pulled out of the country during the period, approximating the $389.56 million in outflows recorded in October.

Since the start of the year, the country has recorded net outflows of $1.28 billion, a reversal of the $3.82 billion in net outflows in the same period a year ago.

Jonathan Ravelas, chief strategist at Banco de Oro Unibank, said a yearend rally seemed unlikely "as it may still be trouble on the back of strong remittance flows.

For next year, he projected a wide trading range of 42-52 against the US dollar.

"The US dollar continues to be the world's reserve currency but if you look at it fundamentally, over time, the US dollar could correct and hit as low as 52 (versus the peso)," Ravelas said.

"Equity markets should see recovery over the course of next year as risk aversion wanes and starts to move again," he said, saying that current stock market valuations in the Philippines were already offering good bargains.

JDV recalls 'the night of the hundred knives'

From page A1

alize by chance.

The first of those signs was the President's failure to act on de Venecia's letter endorsing Mike Arroyo of an assassination plot against him and his son, purportedly hatched by three former police generals now working in her administration, to topple succession there other signs appeared, such as the vote vower from the bar, a complaint to impeach the President, filed by a senior Rafael Pobre, a lawyer, was lodged in the House of Representatives by the anomalous WMS deal her government had entered into with ZTE. The complaint aroused deep suspicion from the moment it was filed. It contained more malicious and unfounded accusations against de Venecia and his son than it did against the President.

De Venecia looked at rebutting the complaint in the House Committee on Justice. He described the complaint as a chain that was tainted with bribery.

The conspirators were putting up Noynoy to replace him. And the conspiracy's central command headquarters was not Davao City, Noynoy's bailiwick. It was somewhere deep in Central Luzon, in the ancestral province of the President, and the conglomerates were the two presidential sons and brother-in-law, all incumbent members of the House of Representatives in the aftermath of the breach. Amid business conflict between the President's husband and the Speaker's son, the Presidents was now unleashing her family on the Speaker to finish him off in retribution.

It was the passage of time, one is self evach by the brazenness of the players in organizing and arming the initiative. The clandestine meeting (Dale Darwin) was thrown by Mikey's (the real Lord in Manila's famous restaurant Cirkulo 1771, fittingly in Intramuros, a walled compound deep inside Muralla and Arsenal) all happened (presumably after the Christmas holidays of 2007. In that case, the conspiracy was already in place by the time de Venecia got wind of it, and all the basic ingredients were there when he—the pesidents, gross resources, the influential actors, and the plan of action.

Now, this Sunday evening, after de Venecia returned from church, the strategy group gathered around the dinner table. Support for the Speaker remained solid from his senior leaders, but for the bulk of the majority coalition, a threshold was about to be crossed. Someone observed that many of those who signed for Speaker de Venecia also signed for his rival. And they were gathered at the moment that same night somewhere in a cosy Quezon City village, in a meeting organized by the President's husband and their two sons. He found enough reliable proxies where the Speaker stood at this point. With large contingents of his coalition questioned in clandestine meetings, he could not whip up support.

The small group at the Speaker's residence explored several scenarios. In the end de Venecia decided he would make a tough stand in the issue in the next day. He would lose, but he would fight it out. Everyone left around 10 o'clock. The house on Tomasino Avenue fell silent. Outside, the night was cold and the street empty. It was the eve of a "night of a hundred knives."

Malacañang had instigated the conspiracy to remove him from the House leadership, and the certainty of the Palace prevailing over him never seemed in doubt. The plot depended on presidential power, largesse, pork barrel, and other inducements that complete the heavy firepower to Mahardlung's machine manual. That morning, de Venecia woke up no longer harboring any shred of illusion about the fate that awaited him.

De Venecia recalled the moment that sealed his political partnership with President Arroyo. It began with a request by Mrs. Arroyo, then one of the country's twenty-four senators, that took a neighborhood that he was in on the Christmas night in 1987, she visited de Venecia at his residence in Dasmariñas Village to solicit a political favor. "Please consider me as your vice-presidential running mate," Mrs. Arroyo asked him.

At 12:45 a.m. of Tuesday, February 5, 2008, the political joint fell. And he fell hard.

This political crash did remake de Venecia, the dreamer, significantly. It made him realize more profoundly that to advance the common good one must go through an indelible phase of pain and self-sacrifice.

De Venecia sees Malacañang hand in cancellation of book launch in NY

By Leila B. Salaverria

FORMER SPEAKER JOSE DE Venecia believes Malacañang had a hand in the sudden cancellation of his booking at the Philippine Center in New York for the launch of his biography next week.

De Venecia yesterday said he was informed of the cancellation Wednesday night by his wife Gina, and that Philippine ambassador to the United States Willy Gaa had issued a memorandum ordering the cancellation.

"It is clear there is an order from Malacañang," he said in a phone interview. "Gina is close, how mean."

De Venecia denounced the move as politically motivated and a form of "harassment."

The Philippine Center building on New York's 5th Avenue houses the country's Permanent Mission to the United Nations.

Told of De Venecia's gripes, deputy presidential spokesperson Anthony Golez said: "I'm sure there's a reason for [the cancellation], but the Palace doesn't have a hand in it. We have no use for business of his coming people."

Blame game

"He might be caught pretending yesterday and still blame it on the government," Golez said in a text message.

Also caught by surprise, the Department of Foreign Affairs said it was still awaiting feedback from Gaa's office in the United States to press time.

Once a staunch defender of President Macapagal-Arroyo, De Venecia joined the ranks of her critics following his ouster in February this year.

His falling out with the President stemmed from his son Jerry's allegations of corruption against the First Couple and other top officials in connection with the scuttled NBN-ZTE contract. The younger De Venecia, a businessman, was a losing bidder in the contract.

Congressman De Venecia yesterday said reservations were made last week at the Philippine Center for the Dec. 3 launch of his biography, "Global Filipino: The Audacious Biography of Jose de Venecia Jr., the Visionary Five-Time Speaker of the House of Representatives of the Philippines."

Invites already out

Invitations following the Philippine Center's acceptance of the launch have already been sent when the booking was canceled, he said.

But a public relations consultant for Gina de Venecia said the launch would push through on Dec. 4 in another New York venue.

According to the former Speaker, the launch was organized by Filipino community leaders in New York and New Jersey among them Ilocos Foundation of Ilocos Sur Governor and Vivian Tabangcura, a former president of the Ilocanopino Alumni Association.

The biography details his supposed knowledge of the President's involvement in the scandal-tainted National Broadband Network (NBN) deal between the government and China's ZTE Corp., as well as the alleged bribery of public officials that took place right in the chamber.

The biography will also be launched in Washington, Las Vegas, San Francisco, and Los Angeles.

Frontline leaders forum

"Frontline leaders' have been invited to discuss their vision of Philippines 2010 and Beyond in a forum on November 29, 2008 at the SSP Convention Hall in Davao City from 3 to 5 pm.

The leaders include Vice President Noli de Castro, Sen. Manuel Villar, Sen. Panfilo Lacson, Sen. Richard Gordon, Sen. Mar Roxas, Sen. Loren Legarda, Sen. Francis Escudero, Speaker Prospero Nograles, Mayor Jejomar Binay, and Chair Bayani Fernando.

The forum will be moderated by Pareng Oca - Mr. Oscar Orbos.

The Frontline Leaders' Forum coincides with the culmination of the Annual National Convention of the Philippine Institute of Certified Public Accountants or PICPA.

There is no better venue for the Frontline Leaders to show their willingness to be accountable than in a convention of accountants.

The Forum will involve a moderated discussion on these fundamental questions - Who are we? What is happening to us now? Why did these happen? Where do we want to go? How do we get there? The leaders may decide to talk about a specific area - whether entrepreneurship, peace and order, youth development, trade and industry, poverty alleviation, among others.

PICPA is currently headed by President Cocoy Tasandong. The session chair is Davo Balangue, Managing Partner of SGV & Co.

Supreme Court blocks Palace order placing review centers under CHEd

By Dona Z. Pazybugan

THE SUPREME COURT HAS set aside Malacañang's order subjecting the review centers in the economy under the supervision of the Commission on Higher Education (CHED).

The high tribunal in an en banc resolution dated Nov. 25 ordered the Palace and CHEd not to implement Executive Order No. 566 and Memorandum No. 21 "until further orders from this Court."

The Review Center Association of the Philippines (Rccap), composed of independent review centers, had asked the Supreme Court on Nov. 20, to issue a temporary restraining order against EO 566 and Memorandum No. 21.

"Effective immediately and continuing until further orders from this Court . . . Executive Secretary Eduardo Ermita and the Commission on Higher Education are hereby required to observe the status quo in the areas presently falling in the issuance of the assailed EO 566 and Memorandum Order No. 21 series of 2008," read the court resolution that was issued yesterday.

EO 566 directs the CHEd to supervise the establishment and operation of review centers, after a closing scandal involving examination reviews centers named the 2008 nursing board examinations.

Shortly before the exams, test questions in psychiatric nursing and maelfas surgical nursing were allegedly leaked to examinees via radio frequency review centers.

Many of the 2008 nursing board examinees have since consistently taken the exam again.

Before EO 566 was released, no government agency administered review schools.

Under CHED Memorandum No. 21, all review centers must transmit more given until Nov. 27 to tie up with an institution of higher learning offering the same courses for which the review offered reviews, otherwise they would be closed down.

In its petition, Rccap argued that CHED's charter under Republic Act No. 7722 says that it will only supervise public and private "institutions of higher education" as well as those post-high school educational institutions that offer degree programs.

Rccap said that while review centers offered reviews classes in engineering, criminology or accountancy, medicine and education courses, they never "ran institutions of higher education."

Rccap also said the new government regulation requiring them to tie up with higher education institutions was a form of "coercion."

More Filipinos lost jobs in Taiwan, says migrant group

A MIGRANT WORKERS' GROUP HAS accused the Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE) of downplaying reports of retrenchments in Taiwan, and of alleged bullying that the numbers of workers that have been laid off by factories affected by the global economic crisis.

The Asia Pacific Mission for Migrants (APMM) yesterday said that it had received reports from labor groups and shelters in Taiwan that more than 1,000 overseas Filipino workers there have been laid off.

The APMM said Labor Secretary Marianito Roque "misreported" the situation when he said that only 200 Filipinos had been rendered jobless in Taiwan because of the financial crunch.

Taiwan, with its large manufacturing and export-oriented base, is one of the major logistical destinations for OFWs. Around 90,000 Filipinos work in Taiwan as factory workers and domestic helpers, according to DOLE figures.

But the economy of the island-state has been experiencing some difficulty in recent months because of a reduced demand for its products from the United States and Japan, which are suffering from the effects of a worldwide recession.

The APMM said Hope Workers Center (HWC), a migrant NGO in Taiwan, reported that 781 Filipinos had been terminated in Taiwan alone.

"Migrants Taiwan reported that 1,000 have been laid off in the whole island. And both reported that this could be more, reportedly in other industrial areas in Taichung and Kaohsiung," the APMM said in commentary.

"There are reports that Filipino workers in the Nantou Export Processing Zone in Kaohsiung would want to lay off 30 percent of their work force," the group said. Krisher C. Alava

Ammonia tank blast hurts 96

GENERAL SANTOS CITY—SIXTY-SIX persons were rushed to the hospital after an ammonia leak on the Tuna Terminal Mall, which was docked at the General Santos City fish port, exploded yesterday after 2 p.m. yesterday.

Rodolfo Teodoro, security officer at the General Fish Port, told reporters that most of the victims were crew members of the boat.

"We just saw smoke billowing from the vessel. Then we saw several crew members who abruptly stopped working and rendered some of those affected unconscious," Teodoro said.

Ephraim Beltran, chair of the City Disaster Coordinating Council, said 56 of the victims were still in the hospital. One was in serious condition, he said.

Sixty of the patients were residents of Barangay Tambler, Brgy. Bula, Brgy. Dadiangas South, Brgy. Dadiangas North and Brgy. Dadiangas East, Brgy. Dadiangas West and Brgy. Dadiangas North,

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OPINION

Holding her to account

EDITORIAL

HOW DOES THE COUNTRY HOLD THE PRESIdent, any president, accountable? The certain death of the fourth impeachment complaint against President Macapagal-Arroyo (reports about Wednesday's dismissal by the House justice committee and next week's inevitable plenary vote are a chronicle of death foretold) should matter all of no stop and wonder: Is a politically astute president, any president, above the law?

The constitutional immunity from suit a president enjoys was meant to shield the chief executive, deep in affairs of state, from the sometimes consuming distraction of legal challenges. The idea is that, if necessary, legal reckoning will come only after the commander in chief steps down from office. The only exception like to impeachment, Congress' so-called "terrible sword," which forces a sitting president to answer to both houses of Congress in a partly judicial, partly political process.

The country has unsheathed the sword of impeachment against a sitting president only once, in the breakthrough case of Joseph Estrada, and even then the sword did not fully leave its scabbard. None of the impeachment cases filed against President Arroyo has managed to lift the sword even an inch. Ms Arroyo may be vastly unpopular, but she is unquestionably more politically astute than Estrada.

The result, however, is a staggering setback for our democratic project: When it comes to impeachment, President Arroyo has learned how to game the system.

Her many spokesmen have argued that the President does hold herself accountable to the Filipino people, through the electoral system. This is not exactly true: while Ms Arroyo's previous election victories (twice for the Senate, once for the vice presidency) are beyond dispute, her election as president in her own right in 2004 remains controversial. Indeed, in the wake of revelations made to the "Hello, Garci" scandal and the fertilizer fund scam, a majority of Filipinos now presume her election to be fraudulent. This is the case, or what some analysts call the original sin, of her crisis of legitimacy.

Her many spokesmen have also argued that the President does hold herself accountable to the Filipino people, through her stewardship of the economy. They point to years of consecutive economy growth. But the assumption that the market helps legitimize her presidency is easily disproved. Stock prices have collapsed, the peso/dollar rate has deteriorated and the economy has abruptly slowed; so by Malacañang's own logic, these developments doom the President. The Palace's exalted silence on this point betrays both the sensitivity of this legitimacy argument and Malacañang's capacity to untie it.

Her many spokesmen have also argued that the President does hold herself accountable to the Filipino people, through the elected officials she works with. Loyal local government officials, in particular, have proved to be a steady source of consolation for her. But the survey after survey has shown, many Filipinos think negatively of the President; there is no necessary connection between a constituency's support for a governor or a mayor and that same constituency's support for the President. If times were lean enough, and the long arm of the law reach dozens, many more people would be marching in the streets, demonstrating against the President.

In other words: With the the President's crafty refusal to be held to account in any serious fora, and with her royally spending as much as P180 million to buy what former Speaker Jose de Venecia Jr. calls "legal protection," the record of impeachment turns out to be made of plastic.

It is still possible, of course, that on Tuesday a majority of congressmen will overturn the justice committee's dismissal when the House debates the impeachment complaint in plenary. It won't necessarily be shame or their base servitude to the Palace or newly found courage of conviction that would lead congressmen to do the right thing. They could simply read the signs of an angry electorate, and decide to distance themselves from a deeply unpopular President who, if the sorry example of the dictator Ferdinand Marcos in any guide, cannot possibly last in office forever. In other words, cabal self-interest is reason enough to force congressmen to overturn the committee decision.

Holding President Arroyo to account now may cost them in the short term. The upside, however, is that it will place them in better positions for 2010.

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The new Mafia

AS I SEE IT

Neal H. Cruz

THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES IS THE new Mafia. It is steeped in corruption; it commits crimes with impunity; it doesn't care what the public thinks of it, it does what it can get away with and its members take shelter in their immunities. Members of the House are supposed to represent the people, and that is why they are called "representatives" but they don't do what the people want them to do; they do what they damn please if it means more money and power for them.

Look what they just did to the impeachment complaint and what they are about to do with Chavez things. They killed the latest impeachment complaint against GMA with the cold bloodedness and heartlessness of somebody stepping on a cockroach. Never mind if there is probable cause that she is guilty of the charges against her. The House has the numbers so it killed the impeachment bid before GMA came home from her latest trip abroad. Maybe there are shopping bags awaiting her there in Mindanao big when the thanks that he for making short shrift of the complaint.

On the Chavez opinion polls have clearly shown that fully 64 percent of the people don't want the Constitution changed, but the representatives of the people are supposing for strict of their constituents and going full speed ahead with plans to overhaul it through a constituent assembly. The Constitution needs "revision," they say. But the changes would be for the worse. There is "selfish motives" written all over them. Their aim is to make themselves, if extended, term limits would be abolished, the constitutional provision against family dynasties would be scrapped, their salaries and allowances would be increased, plus a host of other amendments we still know little about.

Disheartening has been a resolution urging the extension of President Arroyo's term is one of the questions. But that is not for her to say. If the legislators convert our government to a parliamentary system, she would be eligible to run in her district in Pampanga and then vie for the position of prime minister.

There are compelling reasons for GMA to want to stay in power. She knows that when she is no longer president, she will no longer be immune from criminal suits. She knows that when she becomes an ex-president, she will be intimidated by changes in the circumstances in order to run for reelection (but would decide whether or not she is guilty not the number of law allies. She is like a woman holding the tiger by the tail. If she lets go, the tiger will eat her. So she has to hold on.

But the longer she stays, the more people hate her. And when she cannot afford to bribe the congressmen indefinitely, which is the extent of her survival. The money will run out, sooner or later. And if the people declare a tax revolt, the money will stop much sooner. And she knows that when that happens, those very same congressmen who are pretending her every whim against her like hungry wolves. So if you were in her place, what would you do?

That is worse than being caught between a rock and a hard place.

* * *

Last June 30, this column drank on the proliferation of herbal supplements that is taking the country by storm. These herbs are being touted by their manufacturers as wonder cures for all the deadly diseases: hepatitis, liver cancer, heart disease, arthritis, diabetes, liver disease, digestive, circulation, and pulmonary disorders, name the disease, they have an herb to cure or prevent it. The question is: How safe are they?

Ask any doctor, pharmacist or chemist, and they will tell you that some plants do indeed have medicinal properties. And many medicines are actually taken from plants. But isolating any medicinal property of a plant and taking the whole plant as a medicinal herb are two different things. The entire plant that has a medicinal property may contain other chemicals that may be harmful. Each plant must first be analyzed and studied before it is marketed as curative or preventive to make sure that it does not do more harm than good.

This I was being done, either by the manufacturers or the Bureau of Food and Drugs (BFAD), the government agency tasked with testing food and drugs for their safety. There have been cases of herbals touted to prevent certain diseases that were found out later to be toxic after they had killed a number of people. One example is the mahogany seed, which was touted to lower blood pressure but which turned out to be highly toxic. Now the mahogany seed has been banned, but too late—a number of people are already dead.

It has also been discovered that many herbals, including imported ones, contain impurities that could be harmful. That is the purpose of the BFAD: to assure that foods and drugs are safe before somebody dies.

But herbals are not under the jurisdiction of the BFAD, say their manufacturers. They are food supplements, not drugs.

Herzog, says BFAD director Letty Gutierrez, who came to the Kapihan on Manila Inn Monday to explain the BFAD's side over lunch. The herbal supplements are under the jurisdiction of the BFAD, she said. "We are duty-bound to test each and every one of them, the same way we tested the food products from China, and make public our findings," she said.

The trouble is, the agency does not have enough people to do the testing. It now has a budget to hire 374 pharmacists and medical technicians, but there are not enough applicants. Worse, foreign companies are pirating the technicians they already have. So if you are a pharmacist or medical technologist, you know where to go if you need a job.

'Teaching law in the grand manner'

PASSION FOR REASON

Raul C. Pangalangan

GEORGE MALCOLM, A PRIZE LAW STUDENT who when he came to our shores in 1900, became the first American colonial convictor, "and by 1911, he was the dean of the first American-style law school in the Asian world, which vanished into the class method devised by Harvard's two deans, Christopher Columbus Langdell.

Helping on annual detailed cases rather than commentaries written by experts meant a radical break with the continental civil law style of teaching that dominated the former Spanish colony. The revolutionary government of Emilio Aguinaldo actually established a national university, and its law school naturally followed the European model. With Malcolm's reforms, first, the good news: the law courses was reduced from six to four years. And now the bad news from then on, the poor law students had to endure daily graded recitations (the civil law system would have used straight lectures).

Samuel Ayala Rizzo, the valedictorian (and last remaining member of the first graduating class, and he would become the first president of the reinstituted bar in 1946. The Law School has graduated four Philippine presidents: Jose P. Laurel, Ferdinand Marcos, and Fernando Lopez. The Supreme Court has had 15 chief justices from UP Law: Yulo, Ricardo Paras, Cesar Bengzon, Querubin Makalintal, Fred Ruiz Castro, Enrique Fernando, Willi Makalintal, Ramon Aquino, Andres Narvasa, Marcelo Fernan, Hilario Davide Jr., and the incumbent Chief Justice Reynato Puno (and I was of 1/3 of the incumbent justices).

Significantly, one-third of the Philippine Senate today are alumni: Senator GP president Edgardo Angara, Joker Arroyo, Pia Cayetano, Miriam Defensor Santiago, Francis Escudero, Richard Gordon, Francis Pangilinan and senate Senate President Juan Ponce Enrile.

When I began my law studies in the evening session, we already had a one-studded cast of faculty: Retabo Reyes (who was truly scary one), Bindo (or family law (also shy section guy the same law class), Bienvenido Tan, Kimerra who would later become SC justice), Miriam Defensantiago (attacked but still motherly for constitutional law, Buenaventa Arabejo (why while still alive was already called "The late Professor Barlaan") for criminal law, and Antonio Bautista (celebrity attorney known for his passion for the law's for legal research. During the annual sports festival, I recall, the banning dinner had three tables: Comm (communication), Econ (economics) Sociology division, the Metro Politicians underweight division, and the Hayden Texas heavyweight division.

On Saturday, May 29, at 6 p.m., the law school's alumni gather at the Quezon Hall auditorium in Diliman for its annual fete. The traditions is that the oldest jubilarians host the event, and this year, it is the Class of 1962, my own graduating class, that is on the dock. My classmates have raised money to support the law school's Juris Doctor Program, as well as the Law Centennial Scholarship for bright needy students, and preserve Malcolm Hall's history by honoring the 13 alumni who have served as chief justice. The class will also endow grants for the Law Student Center and the alumni affairs office. The UP Law Class '62 Alumni Association, headed by Napoleon Rabuluz, will create a foundation to fund these legacy projects.

The Class of 1962 has the highest representation in the full-time faculty: myself, my wife Elizabeth, and brother BSC Commissioner Imelda Concepcion. At various times in the past, several class members have taught as well: Gilbert Sison (the indefatigable lawyer and student of the homecoming), Bonky Reyes, Yolanda Mendoza-Ilarina, and Rodolfo Vega (who taught at Ateneo). Judge Maria Macarena Cadiles, Jose Ambrosio Marapao and Danny Gutierrez have spoken at various forums, and Miriam Defensantiago has served as university general counsel.

Before I graduated, dean Irene Cortes took us one by one for her faculty—and I accepted the challenge, not realizing then she had just guided me to find my calling. The words chiseled on the wall of Malcolm Hall came from Oliver Wendell Holmes Jr. that "the business of a law school is to teach law in the grand manner." And I have been there ever since.

But there is a line beyond which grand becomes merely grandiose, and we must read those words in light of Holmes' preceding sentence: "The aim of the law school is not to make men smart, but to make them wise in their calling." The standard against which UP Law should eventually be measured is called the "Philadelphia lawyer," the shrewd attorney adept at the manipulations of legal technicalities.

Although I am abroad as I write this, I have happily learned that the late school is now restoring the public interest practice groups (human rights, environmental law, children's rights, and IPR) duties among others) that were begun during my deanship but which were de-activated when I left. These interventions will not necessarily be with core cases. The students get to do hands-on work on real cases; they help those who can't afford lawyers; they sharpen their knowledge of doctrine; and they are not just the power of the law to change people's lives but to better as well.

In a way, practice-based teaching solves the eternal dilemma of the Pinoy lawyer, who learns his or her many-splitting skills all throughout law school, only to find out when he begins his career that those are more important skills in the life of the Filipino lawyer: to coordinate over syndromes into wrongs. The bubbles and geysers of Pinoy culture, the fetish for titles ("Atty."), the fixation on technicality, job hunt are how Dante's category in "The Merchant of Venice"), the solutions-formal—clinical work reinforces all these and therefore is part of the continuing task of saving souls, including one's own.

(Comments to pacmod@yahoogroups.com)

A brazen move to extend GMA's term

AS THE COUNTRY APPROACHES CLOSER THE constitutional limitations of President Macapagal-Arroyo's penultimate year in 2010, the more audacious the attempts to extend her stay in office become.

The most brazen of these attempts is a resolution filed by Batangas Rep. Hermilando Mandanas in the House of Representatives on constitutional amendments seeking to extend her grip on power for another year through the cabinet-ridge of postponing the general elections in May 2010 to a year later. The scheme in effect extends the President's tenure, extending her an extra legal stay in office. There are fears that an extension could open the gates to a longer and more permanent extension.

House Resolution 556 states: "All elected officials whose terms were still end as soon on June 30, 2010 shall hereby hold office until noon of June 30, 2011." It covers all elected officials who will be given a one-year term, including the President and the Vice President, who, together with senators, hold sole year terms. It also seeks to extend the terms of congressmen to four years and other elected local officials, including governors and mayors.

The resolution comes as an opening wedge for the entry of measures intended to amend the Constitution, including the resolution to convene Congress as a constituent assembly.

The resolution came to the surface in the wake of a campaign pushed by the President's eldest son, Congressman Mikey Arroyo, to have the congressional backing for a resolution calling on the Senate and the House to convene as a constituent assembly to consider constitutional amendments, voting jointly but not separately.

Both the 556 and the one sponsored by the congressman Arroyo are being pushed against strong public resistance to constitutional change, as reflected by public opinion polls. A survey conducted by the Social Weather Stations from last September to early October showed that 64 per cent of adult Filipinos are opposed to amending the Constitution to allow President Arroyo to remain in power. The survey also found that very few wished to extend the terms of office of the President, the Vice President, senators and congressmen. A total of 61 percent of respondents said the President's term was "just right as it was."

The flush move to ram constitutional changes intended to extend the presidential terms fly into the historical record showing that most Filipinos have always been opposed to any extension of a president's stay in office. In December 2007, the fourth quarter 2006-2005 survey found that 66 per cent said no to Charter change. In its June 2006 survey, 64% found the no vote to Cha-cha rising to 67 percent, with only 6.4 percent saying yes to Cha-cha during the June 2006 survey. In its fourth quarter 2005 survey, 56% found that "54 percent approved" of Cha-cha whereby 18% would keep down.

In another indicator of the antagonistic public mood toward the President, another SWS survey found that in August 2005 (91 percent to Metro Manila said impeachment was more important than Cha-cha, which was polled to be 22 percent. In its second quarter report, SWS found only 30 percent favored amending the Constitution, while 64 percent opposed allowing MPs to become members of the Constitutional Assembly, which gives even clearer chance to amend the Constitution only one half of our powers cited parliamentary system."

The plan is postponed the 2010 election in 2011 is supposed to provide more resistance than other forms of Charter change, because millions have mailed electorate (voter controlled, except in a national emergency, such as war. Of all the instrumentalized procedures of democracy, elections have been held by Filipinos as the most positive mode of renewal and leadership change, despite the outcome of the elections and the cheating that have characterized them. Indeed, the Filipino trust stands as the most formidable obstacle to the suspension of elections, especially if it is seen as a way to extend the President's tenure.

The movements have come at a time when the President is experiencing a prolonged rush (history public approval rating, which is worse than the ratings given to Presidents Joseph Estrada and Ferdinand Marcos. While presidential enemies have swamped the House with resolutions seeking constitutional change in myriad forms, these efforts have made no prospects of success than the crushing of impeachment complaints filed against the President. If the would find it more difficult assuming the purpose to convene a constituent assembly in violation constitutional change. The biggest obstacle will be the Senate which stands to be eliminated by a shift to a parliamentary system from the presidential system.

With the administration majority in the House, the other approaches toward executing the President aside from impeachment, include people power that has so far remained unconfirmed despite the corruption scandals that have rocked the administration. The revelations of corruption scandals by the former presidential ally former Speaker Jose de Venecia, have not elevated public outrage to the level where it would find mass protests.

Turmoil and hope

AS IF WE DIDN'T HAVE ENOUGH BAD NEWS AT home—starting with the brazen way the fourth impeachment effort against President Macapagal-Arroyo was swatted away—the news from our neighbors is not rosy.

Horrifying indeed are reports of the deaths of more than a hundred people in a planned, well-coordinated late evening attack on different luxury hotels in Mumbai, India.

Most cable news stations made much of carnivorous reports that the attackers, who were armed with heavy weapons and explosives, were looking out foreigners, particularly Americans and Britons. The Taj Mahal Palace, one of the luxury hotels, a restaurant popular among the expatriate crowd, a train station, a Jewish housing center, and even a hospital.

Security commentators said the deliberate targeting of foreigners bore the hallmarks of al-Qaeda, as the Indian authorities have remained silent on the possible motives for the attacks. A group that came forward to claim responsibility for the attacks is little known and not identified with al-Qaeda.

What is obvious is that terrorism is still very much a threat to every government, every democratic civilian. World leaders roundly condemned the attacks, with the President of the United States saying that "no terrorist were able to pull off such an outrageous attacks without attracting notice or worries.

The terrorism conflict has penetrated India's history. This seems to be the first time an international terrorist plot was hatched in India. Were the events in Mumbai linked to events in Pakistan, where Islamic fundamentalist attacks on suspected Taliban members or their supporters have claimed the hapless of officials? Are they just the harbingers of wider, bloodier action?

A frightening thought to whether the Mumbai disaster will spill over to other countries, including up the borderless and fear of our own Muslim population.

• • •

JUST as puzzling and alarming are events in Thailand, where anti-government protesters have taken over two airports, stranding thousands of tourists and travelers, and destroying the country's reputation as a tourist haven.

Some months back, the protesters seemed to raise echoes of our own People Power revolts, although it had quickly degenerated into what in days went by for a versus the anti-government coalition gained new life when the police were sent to break up three camps in front of the government center. Now the stakes have been raised even higher with the protesters going to bring the political turmoil to the airports, in deadly seeming entertainment attention.

Only one picture, the reverend King Bhumibol, is revered, can bring an end to the crisis. But there are suspicions where his sympathies lie, but nothing about the protests has ever run true to expectations, as our succeeded.

• • •

ON A more positive note, Volvo launched yesterday the "Voice of Leadership," a program that seeks to identify future leaders of the nation through a leadership skills seminar and a public speaking competition. It is also an opportunity for the "Voice of Leadership" in Chief" Tin, certainly a role model for Filipino youth, with his accomplishments in the sports arena, as captain of the famous UAAP champion basketball team, his solid credentials in the academe, and his success as a budding entrepreneur and media personality.

The "Voice of Leadership" was organized by Hilong Cua Ty, and Scandinavian Motors Corp., to mark the 75th year of Volvo in the Philippines. Through the Voice of Leadership, we reaffirm our commitment to that ideal by cultivating leadership among the youth, especially among students who are poised to become the future leaders of our country," said Hilong Cua grandson Ty. Boris Arcilla.

Both Arcilla and Selene by of Scandinavian Motors Corp. hailed back to the "Volvo of Democracy" which in past decades had served as the main venue for training and recognizing public speakers at the high-school level, many of whom turned out to be leaders in their own fields.

The Volvo project from follows much the same template as the "National Democracy" program for high schools to select among their students one, two, winners who meet the criteria for both academic achievement, community involvement and personal integrity. Students who make it through the first round will be invited to attend the "Leadership" Camp, where they will receive training in leadership, speech-writing and delivery. After the camp, each participant is required to write an eight-minute talk and deliver it during the actual finals. Three winners will be selected, with the champion receiving P50,000 and an expenses-free session going to Volvo for school.

• • •

SOME questions were raised on why only 11 high schools in the country were selected to participate, with only one public, now-to-have-it-school, the UP Integrated School, invited.

To this Arcilla said the first competition, which will involve plans for the next three years, was just a "pilot" stage and they plan to involve more schools, especially those in other regions in the future.

Arcilla also said that the students—not just in the 11 schools but in other institutions hoping to take part in Tin, who turns/does his organization as a well-rounded young person with a sense of humanity. While being effectively independent, they are also "team players" and in the course to please get it were with. He agreed to be the "Voice of Leadership" spokesperson, he said, because he could sense that "young people today are looking for leaders of the type that Barack Obama exemplifies" and that such is no such leader is emergent in this country.

Well, perhaps Chris Tin could serve as a role-model in the search for just such a type of leadership. And we wouldn't be surprised if we hear more about this young man in the future.

Searching for Andres Bonifacio

A FEW MONTHS BACK, I RECEIVED AN IN-triguing text message from Dr. Michael Cullinane of the University of Wisconsin at Madison, who was researching in the Philippine National Archives in Manila. He found my ally with a "discovery" that I just had to see. Another researcher had stumbled across a document stating that Andres Bonifacio was apprehended on May 29, 1896, shortly after the outbreak of the Philippine Revolution, and brought to the police headquarters in the Tondo district of Manila. I pretended to be excited because Ambeth wanted to read the first page, obviously. I don't want to let that discovery fool the gullible.

I had come across the same document over a decade ago. It said that "Andres Bonifacio" was carrying a cedula with personal number 2105882 (perhaps I should place a bet on this number in this weekend's lotto draw because Sunday, November 30, is my birthday). The cedula stated that "Bonifacio" was a native of Tambobo, a resident of Concepcion and 21 years old. His occupation was listed as "jornalero" (labanero/day means).

There are a number of ways to read this document, but the common thread is that the man was not the Andres Bonifacio we are familiar with. Is it possible that someone drew out later "Andres Bonifacio" from Malabon apprehended, interrogated and produced by the military line for "pop points." If the cedula is false, then it was probably used by the real Bonifacio to conceal the police and military authorities from knowing his true identity. If false, then (but explains how Bonifacio was able to hold rallies in various places where he would tear up his cedula to emphasize his freedom from Spanish oppression.

I am sure there are people out there who will disagree and make a monument out of a wasted week of my research and time at the National Archives. We leave them to their imagination.

The real search for Bonifacio has been done, not by a historian of the Revolution, but by a demographic historian: Dr. Dio Doeppers, now retired from the University of Wisconsin at Madison. Doeppers grew curious with the data he found in the Archivo de Instituto Nacional de Estadistica that he combed for the years covering 1849 to 1894. We all know that Bonifacio is from Tondo, but he is not the Hero of Tondo (the title is reserved for Raja Sulaiman). Doeppers says that the records do not list any Andres Bonifacio in Tondo during those years. He did find the following:

1. Bernabe Bonifacio, age 36, tailor, married (probable wife Rafaela Uy Tampo, age 29, operava or cigarette maker).

2. Dionisio Bonifacio, age 26 or 36, married, carpenter (probable wife Francisca Muniz, age 35, cigarette maker). The latter had a son named Andres Bonifacio, age 8, (a mother's secondary entry, the same Dionisio Bonifacio's age is given as 35 and his occupation is listed as tender, she is still married in his document is became Gumersa Flores, age 37, cigarette, but now they had two children: Melchora, age 8, and Andres, age 6.

3. Gervasia Bonifacio, 24, cigarette.

You will be amazed at the amount of useless information that Dr. Guillaume has for Cebu and Dr. Doeppers for Manila. I can only hope that these six young Filipino historians who will give up the pleasures of a career in some great business corporation and start solid archival work in the Philippine National Archives or before still file an letter in Spain and Mexico. It is unfortunate that the Gen. is separated from their great treasure of language. I am told that the Instituto Cervantes in Manila has record numbers of students who are probably taking Spanish because they can get paid more than English, or should we say American, speakers in call centers. If only a small number of these Spanish proficient Filipinos can now research work in colonial archives, our past will become relevant to a new generation.

The material from our historical archives makes us ask the question: If Andres Bonifacio cannot be found in the vacindario of Tondo, where was he all this time? Was he registered in another suburb of Manila? Was he one of the many transients of Manila and was not included in the census count? Maybe the person assigned to collect cedula fees from Bonifacio could not find him or was too scared to present a bill? Perhaps the collector pocketed Bonifacio's cedula money? Was the collector delinquent in performing his duty?

The bottom line is that Bonifacio cannot be found in the resident lists for Tondo. If he was indeed a bona fide resident, why was he not enrolled for the local tax among the outsiders in Tondo? If Bonifacio did not pay his taxes, he did not have the right to vote but a temporary resident of Tondo and was not included in the census count? Maybe the person assigned to collect cedula fees from Bonifacio could not find him or was too scared to present a bill? Perhaps the collector pocketed Bonifacio's cedula money? Was the collector delinquent in performing his duty?

The bottom line is that Bonifacio cannot be found in the resident lists for Tondo. If he was indeed a bona fide resident, why was he not enrolled for the local tax among the outsiders in Tondo? If Bonifacio did not pay his taxes, he did not have the right to vote but a temporary resident of Tondo and was not included in the census count? Maybe the person assigned to collect cedula fees from Bonifacio could not find him or was too scared to present a bill? Perhaps the collector pocketed Bonifacio's cedula money? Was the collector delinquent in performing his duty?

Rumors is a very slippery discipline because there is always more than one way to use an event. There is also a time factor in the interpretation. Whether there is a lot or nothing, the documentation is almost always problematic. Old questions often addressed other recent new answers, yet Bonifacio remains one of the heroes we should know more about but cannot, pending better research to find new materials and/or reassessed interpretation of the scant material we have on hand.

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Comments are welcome at ocampo@inquirer.com.ph

Where to raise kids

THESE DAYS WE ARE FLOODED WITH "BEST" AND "worst" lists, most of which are really more for entertainment (e.g., worst divorce/ scandals of the Ugoddo Awards) for the most ridiculous research conducted).

The most useful lists usually come from the United Nations system, ranking countries on various indices. The UNDP's Human Development Index is perhaps the most comprehensive, combining economic and social indicators to measure quality of life. You already discussed, in a recent column, how the Philippines ranks 84th among developing countries in the World Economic Forum's Global Gender Equity rankings, i.e., the gap between our women and men in terms of access to opportunities is small to be the mid-teens.

The Gender Development Index is important to guide policymakers and groups working in development. The World Economic Forum notes, for example, that the number of FH spines with positions in the Cabinet has been dropping, and that wages of women, compared to men doing the same work, have also been declining.

As time goes on, countries are more seen distant and localized, as international agencies have learned to repackage and release their research with more attractive press statements, like "best places to live a mother."

Recently, Scotia Bayswatch Lets of Wealth Actual Information Network now use an electronic clipping, "best places to raise a child to be rich." After 12 months of the article about children, I went to the Internet for more research and was surprised to find quite a few of these most child-friendly rankings. They're all in the United States, but I thought it might still be useful to look at how they went about the research, and some of the results, and get some tips for the Philippines.

These lists are taken quite seriously and featured on local news programs like the Forbes and Bloomberg. In fact, Forbes itself, which is better known for its list of wealthiest people in the world, commissioned one of the latter studies on the best places to raise children. The lists are important for businesses because they are used by American families to help them decide on where to buy a home.

I'll start with the study by Forbes.com Inc., with the research directed by a geographer. Let me do a quick promotion for my friends at UP's geography department. UP being the only university in the Philippines that offers a degree in geography. Geographers don't just do maps, they now have all kinds of research to help improve quality of life. Isaw land is utilized, how natural resources are used, the kinds of jobs areas and with a particular area.) What Location-Id was to use six criteria to choose the best cities or towns within each of the 10 largest metropolitan areas in the United States. The criteria were: availability of good schools, low crime rate, high housing-ownership rates, high number of residents with college degrees, good economic growth, and a high percentage of two-family homes. It's interesting that, some of which are self-explanatory like the availability of good schools. Others need some explaining: higher numbers of college graduates in an area, location's correlation to economic growth, and a higher number of two-family homes with children, the more child-friendly the area would be. In the Philippines, I don't think that criterion will make sense since nearly all households have children.)

The results? From Los Alamos in the San Francisco metropolitan area to Sugar Land in the Houston area, the winners were all in the suburbs of the largest cities in the largest metropolitan areas in America, probably aren't the best places for raising children.

Here if you don't have a phone and have to live in the big city, Forbes does have a survey that ranks those metropolitan areas in terms of "best places to educate children." Forbes' criteria are: strength of the public school system, options for private schools, popularity of libraries, and abundance of higher learning institutions.

The Obama family will be pleased to know that the Washington, DC Arlington area came up on top of the list, followed by Madison, Wisconsin; Cambridge-Newton-Framingham, Massachusetts; Baltimore, Towson, Maryland; and Atlanta, Sandy Springs, Marietta, Georgia. Forbes lists the best schools for their children and are said to be considering public schools, as well as kindergarten. Our friend, whose Bill Clinton's daughter was sent, and Sidwell Friends, which is run by the Quakers.

Safety, community, education

Businessweek has still another survey of best places to raise kids, measuring the usual criteria: safety, community and education." Oddball, a real estate research company, did the data crunching looking at national test scores, cost of living, recreational and cultural activities, number of schools, and crime rates.

Again, the winners tended to be small towns. Nine places went to Honolulu, Hawaii, a small town with 7,300 people. The Businessweek article describes the town as having mostly "one-floor ranch houses and multi-family condo units lining the streets, with the occasional patch of Tin-related, dotted with trees, chickens and bales of hay." Yet, it has one of the best elementary schools in the state (based on test scores), low crime rates, and access to good health fields. Kids can also kayak on the Great Music River, and there are several hiking trails. The city of Claremont, half an hour away has museums, an aquarium, a zoo.

Reading about Honolulu made me think of our own city, Manila, and how should be able to live in a lively quiet and safe suburban area with access to good schools, museums, children's recreation centers, and of course be connected to the world through the internet. It would have worked out with the idea of a Mega Manila, living out in Laguna and commuting to Quezon City, but we've killed those options with congestion and high crime rates.

There's hope yet. After emerging into near-dictation areas, if they'd be careful about planning, not just for the city center but for adjoining towns. Right now, I would consider Cebu, Iloilo and Dumaguete as good places to raise children. Iloilo is sometimes called the local Athens because of all its schools, yet within a 15-minute drive, still in the city, you have access to beaches, the sea, mountains, caves, rivers, golf, Cebu and Dumaguete have all that, too, and the mountains and the sea.

But all this is day-dreaming. I don't have those options right now, being tied to teaching in Manila and elderly parents who would find it difficult adjusting to a new place. I'll even settle for a small house in Tagaytay with a view rather than spend intensive group I dated his children) can begin to raise the quality of life in our cities, not just for children but for the elderly, for women and for families in general.

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Email: mrosa@inquirer.com.ph

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So what's gov't doing ?

LETTERS

I WONDER WHAT THE NEDA ...al government is doing in relation to climate change. Many nations are now worried about global warming, last typhoon that ran rampant in Luzon and some unreported small storms personnel incurred. I reread the day when all of us will find ourselves flatlooted, unable to protect our people and our territory from the adverse effects of climate change.

I learned that the sea level in Bangladesh is rising because of global warming and that the country now loses more—even worse—floods. Scientists report that global sea level is rising by 3 mm (about 1/8 inch) per year. The intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change estimates 1.0-3.9 centimeters of sea level rise. What about in our country? What is our sea level now? What are our responses to climate change?

Allow me to quote findings sourced from the "Windows to the Universe" of the University Corporation for Atmospheric Research (NSF/Agri): "How does global warming cause sea level to rise? There are two reasons. First, when climate warms, water that is stored in glaciers and ice sheets melts and makes its way down to the ocean. Second, as seawater warms, the water molecules move farther apart which makes the water take up more space. Scientists suspect that more than half of sea level rise today is due to warmed and expanded sea water."

Because of climate change, some coastal areas in the country are vulnerable. These include my own hometown of Aparri. The shoreline in Aparri has already extended by no less than a hundred meters and houses nearest the shoreline are almost breached. People living in coastal towns are anxious that the sea water has already reached their homes. Some people in coastal barangays have already moved their residences inland because of the rising seawater.

If only the money used in the before storm, or by the rising tide, or to pay livelihoods, among others, had been spent for scientific research and study on how to preserve our people from climate change or for other homes to goodness social services, the Philippines would be in a better shape.

—KEZIAH D. TARAFE,
member, Sangguniang Bayan secretary general,
ASAN Cagayan, Aparri, Cagayan

Post-Senate coup: like Lapid, Filipinos are confused

THE REFERS TO THE NEWS item "Lapid confused by Senate coup, he's neither here nor there," (Inquirer, 11/21/08).

I think it is not only Sen. Lito Lapid who is confused. The people are also confused with the sensational of the ambitious senators. What people elected these opposition senators, they did so in order that at least one branch of the government would provide check and balance. They did so knowing that the House of Representatives had been bought by the administration.

Panfilo Lacson, Loren Legarda, Jamby Madrigal, Francis Escudero and they would remain with the opposition. How could that be possible when they are now with the administration bloc? I think they will only remain in the opposition in the sense that they will contribute Presidents Macapagal-Arroyo's policies, for personal reasons, not because of principles.

We the people voted their into the Senate but it seems that they are now doing as a disservice. To them I say, stand but in principles and join the country first before your self interests, and people will reward you some with their trust and votes for now, don't count on us again.

—EDEL SAEZ,
saez@yahoo.com

JDV bio bears out NBN award to ZTE was right move

IN HIS BIOGRAPHY "CLOSE, Filipino: The Inscrutable Ilocano" of Jose de Venecia Jr., the Visionary Fire-Tiger Speaker of the House-of-Representatives of the Philippines," the former speaker details the Fire Congress's entire ZTE meeting with ZTE officials in Shenzhen. (In connection, 11/23/08)

I think the government was right to award the NBN project to ZTE because, in the first place, Jose de Venecia, who was responsible for initiating a civic proposition, is the father of the broadband law.

Jose should not have made a bid for government projects because as a very close relative of a government official he was prohibited by law to do so. Here it is clear: Any complicated business he did to get the project.

The government lost a big opportunity to upgrade and modernize the economy's infrastructure which would have benefited the whole Filipino nation.

—LEONIDES OLAVIA,
leonidesolavia@yahoo.com

NFA rice subsidy to poor validated by DSWD

THE RUSH TO THE DEFENSE, TITLED "Cleaning the poor," (Inquirer, 11/22/08)

First of all, let's thank the Inquirer for pointing out that "every poor will welcome ... NFA's efforts to it's measures for rebounding on weakening the situation of those who were subsidized rice" Indeed this was the result of the Inquirer's well-documented observation and consequent attribution by Social Welfare Secretary Esperanza Cabral that only a third of the highly subsidized rice actually went to the poor. By declaring the so-called family Income Card (FIC) to the National Capital Region and the Rice Allowance Ledger (RAL) in the provinces, the NFA is trying to preserve the integrity of the huge subsidy in the for the poor. The entitlement (items by) the Department of Social Welfare and Development) of the FIC and RAL beneficiaries ensures that the subsidized rice goes directly to its rightful beneficiaries.

We hope the public would understand that in such heavily subsidized programs such as rice for the poor, compromises for nothing perennial gain cannot be totally eliminated. But while the opportunity presented itself during the brief period that we encountered the "rice price crisis" this year, we did not stop in pursuing only a short-term solution [i.e., flooding the market with good quality but low-cost rice]. Simultaneously we thought our ways to judiciously allocate our limited resources and boost the benefits on the economy.

We hope that in the days to come, we will no longer have to deal with opportunistic and calculating moves apparently on how to fine-tune our operative to make their efforts in meeting the government's social objectives as we can [sic] [unclear].

We thank the Inquirer for the continuing crusade for change [sic] for society.

—REXIE G. ESPEJO[illegible],
director for public affairs, National Food Authority

Across the NATION

6 cops shot as gunmen burn 5 buses at terminal

POLICEMEN guard the perimeter of the Victory Liner bus terminal in Cubao, Pangasinan, after an arson and burning of five buses.

By Yolanda Setrado and Gabriel Cardinoza
Inquirer Northern Luzon

LINGAYEN, PANGASINAN—VICTORY LINER BUS terminal security guard Ramon Mercullo had looked forward to another ordinary and routine night shift on Wednesday.

Like in previous nights, passengers coming the midnight trip from this Pangasinan capital to Metro Manila would approach him to ask what time the first trip would depart.

But shortly before midnight on Wednesday, while talking to another security guard, Raul Medrin, Mercullo saw three men walking toward the terminal on Avenida Street in Barangay Poblacion here.

"The first man asked me, 'Bos, may 1 ask a question?' I told him, 'What is it, Sir?' Then he held me and told me to fight back," Mercullo said in a local radio interview.

It was then, Mercullo said, that the man grabbed his service firearm and pushed him to the back of the terminal.

A few minutes later, shots were heard and almost simultaneously, five buses were set on fire.

When the smoke had cleared, six policemen were wounded. A bus conductor who was sleeping inside one of the buses suffered burns.

Supt. Pierre Bana, town police chief, identified the wounded policemen as PO3 Daniel Sison, PO3 Sherwin Alcantabar and PO3 Ramon Salvosoria.

Bana said the armed men fired at the policemen as soon as their patrol car reached the terminal.

"We did not know where the [bullets] were coming from. The suspects seemed to be posted inside the terminal," PO2 Benito Soriano said in an interview over Aksyon Radyo here.

Soriano said they did not fire back because "we might hit some bystanders as we just took over."

Victory Liner Inspector Reynaldo Garcia said bus conductor Ulfiphor Ramos, 40, of Sto. Cristo, Tarlac, suffered third degree burns when he failed to immediately get out of the burning bus.

A bus driver, who was sleeping in one of the parked buses, said he was roused from his sleep when he heard somebody yelling, "Get out, get out!"

The driver said the man poured gasoline on the bus. In a few minutes, he heard gunshots.

Senior Supt. Winifred Bueno, Pangasinan police director, said investigators are looking at all possible angles.

"We are not disregarding all possible motives. We are looking at a possible labor dispute or else could be a failed armed robbery," Bueno said.

He said an investigator had been sent to Quezon City to enquire the attack to the burning of buses at the Victory Liner bus terminal in Cubao six months ago.

Bueno said one of the eight policemen who went to the terminal were hit because they were in the middle of the road in front of the terminal.

"Their enemies were positioned near the wall, inside the terminal. If you look at it, our policemen were in a bad position because they were in the middle of the road, vulnerable to attack," Bueno said.

He said the armed men escaped in two vehicles and there might have been 10 of them.

Rise in women abuse cases seen good sign

By Joey A. Gabieta
Inquirer Visayas

TAGUBAN CITY—A NON-government organization based in this city reported that the number of cases of violence against women has shown a "dramatic increase."

But instead of getting upset over the upsurge of cases involving abuses on women, Hadeen Nayra, president of the Banggaan Social Development, said this was a good sign.

"This only meant that our women have known their rights. That a rule/s/ cases involving violence against women have shown a dramatic increase compared to last year because they now report to concerned government agencies the abuses inflicted on them by their abusers," Nayra said.

Based on the group's data, at least 490 women in the city have filed complaints at the women and children's desk of the Taguban City police station from January to October this year.

In contrast, the city police's women and children's desk received only 326 cases during the same period last year.

The cases filed by these alleged abused women mainly involved physical maltreatment, Nayra said.

Nayra said the implementation of Republic Act No. 9262, also known as Anti-Violence Against Women and Children Act, which penalizes physical, psychological and economic abuse of women and children, have encouraged victims to come out and report abuses.

Nayra also noted that husbands of women-complainants were the most common abusers.

"Slapping, hair pulling are just examples of physical abuse commonly inflicted by the husbands on their abused wives," Nayra said.

She also said barangay officials and police officers have become more aware of RA 9262.

In the past, officials dismissed fights involving couples as a domestic matter that shouldn't be meddled in.

With the implementation of RA 9262, barangay officials and police have assisted victims of violence, Nayra added.

Nayra's group has been in the forefront of promoting the rights of the women, encouraging them to report abuses committed against them.

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Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 4F08 Series of 2008

Rangers told: Shield Army from divisiveness

CAMP TECSON, SAN MIGUEL, Bulacan—A few days away in the first anniversary of the Nov 29, 2007, siege by renegade soldiers on Oakwood, Manila in Makati City, Armed Forces chief of staff, Lt/n. Alexander Yano, called on elite troops to protect the military from "forces that divide us."

"We have the responsibility to shield the military institution from forces and elements that seek to divide us," Yano told members of the First Scout Rangers Regiment (FSRR) who gathered for their unit's 58th anniversary on Tuesday.

"We are only as strong as we want it to. When we break the chain of command that the armed forces upholds [and] the military institution is [disrupted]," he said.

Alternately called Rangers or Panchers, these mainstrong and strike forces used to be commanded by Brig. Gen. Danilo Lim, one of those accused of leading a murderous group of soldiers called Magdalo in February 2006.

Lim's ouster with the Rangers here started in July 2003 until February 2004.

"20 late, I knew the regiment has received some criticisms due to extraordinary circumstances involving a few Rangers officers ... we know that many of you apologize for the mission or another in the plight of these officers and this I understand," Yano said, without naming those implicated.

He handed down reminders: "I want each of you to keep in mind the burning effect these encounter being above the law. Being elite is not the same as being beyond reproach." Dinnie Orejas, Inquirer Central Luzon

Cops say they defused North Cotabato bomb

COTABATO CITY—GOVERNMENT security forces said they foiled on Thursday a deadly bomb attack in Kabacan, North Cotabato.

Maj. Randolph Cabangbang, Eastern Mindanao Command spokesperson based in Davao City, told reporters by phone that bomb experts recovered around 6:35 a.m. an improvised explosive device (IED) made out of an 81 mm mortar shell attached to a nine-volt battery and blasting cap at the gate of the Iglesia ni Cristo Church along Don Segundo Street.

"Concerned citizens helped foil the attack by reporting the incident to authorities," Cabangbang said.

On Wednesday night, another IED exploded in the same town but no one was reported hurt.

Unidentified men detonated an explosive they left in front of a Jehovah's Witness Church along Mantalim Street shortly before 11 p.m.

"We are still examining the type of explosive used. From there, we will know the suspects and their modus," Cabangbang said.

Last month, the military foiled a deadly bomb attack inside the town's public market with the recovery of at least three explosives packed in a container box. Jeoffrey Maitem, Inquirer Mindanao

Cebu dump yields P3M in sack mistaken for trash

By Jhunnex Napallacan
Inquirer Visayas

CEBU CITY—IS IT A CRIME TO KEEP A treasure found in a garbage dump?

A 16-year-old boy who regularly searched the garbage dump in the Inayawan Landfill in Cebu City found on Wednesday morning a sack containing $60,000, or almost P3 million.

At first thought the bills were fake as he approached a couple who facilitated the exchange of the dollar bills into pesos.

After confirming that the bills were not fake, the 16-year-old kept the money, shared some with his fellow scavengers and even distributed rice to some of them.

> "If somebody finds something in the garbage, it would mean this was discarded and that he could claim it as his own..."

Ownership claim

However, an owner of a money-changing business, based in Barangay Calamba, Cebu City, has notified and claimed ownership of the dollar bills, which he said was placed inside a small sack and mistakenly thrown away as garbage.

The moneychanger informed Colombo Barangay Captain Victor Quijano Jr. of it and told the latter he went to the Inayawan landfill Wednesday to look for the sack containing the dollar bills but he could no longer find it.

Quijano, in an interview over radio station dyLA, said a person at the landfill informed the moneychanger that a scavenger has found the money.

Celebration

Quijano, who went to the Inayawan landfill where he saw people appeared to be celebrating, said he sought the help of the National Bureau of Investigation (NBI) so the money could be recovered.

Quijano said authorities already have the names of at least three persons—the scavenger and the couple who helped exchange the dollar bills into the local currency.

But the NBI agents who went to the dumpsite found that the three were no longer around, he added.

What's the crime?

However, lawyer Hilario Joseph Bolaski, president of the Integrated Bar of the Philippines (IBP) Cebu City Chapter, on Thursday said the NBI could not arrest or charge the scavenger.

"There has to be intent to commit the crime, to this situation, where is the intent? I don't think there was even a crime committed," Bolaski said over radio station dyLA.

He said the alleged owner has to show proves of evidence that he owned the money.

Aside from his statement claiming he owned the money, Bolaski said he could not see how the moneychanger could prove ownership of the previous bill.

Discard

He also noted that the money could be considered as a discarded item because it was thrown away.

"If somebody finds something in the garbage, it would mean this was discarded and that he could claim it as his own," Bolaski said.

He noted that the question of the boy's honesty could not be applied in this case.

"When you find something of value in the garbage, you would not ask whom the owner was because it would be difficult to determine the identity," he said.

Meanwhile, Quijano refused to identify the moneychanger for security reasons but he said the moneychanger's operation was legal. He said the owners were known personalities to his barangay.

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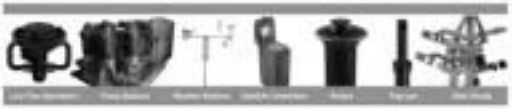

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Thai airports placed under state of emergency

From page A1

Earlier, Somchai urged the Army to stay in its barracks in rumors of a coup swirled after increasingly violent antigovernment protests in Bangkok.

Government spokesperson Nattawee Sukhee denied reports that Somchai planned to sack Army chief Anupong Paochinda, a day after the general called for a coup election to defuse the country's political crisis.

"Troops should stay in their barracks and the prime minister is not going to sack anybody," Nattawee told reporters in the northern city of Chiang Mai, where the Cabinet was meeting.

Pressure has built on the military to intervene to avert civil unrest after Somchai rejected calls to quit, but progovernment forces are threatening to hit the streets if the elected administration goes.

Some office employees left work early in Bangkok and the United Nations advised its staff to go home and remain indoors.

Thailand's three-year-old political crisis has intensified since the PAD began a "final battle" on Monday to execute a government it accuses of being a puppet of former Premier Thaksin Shinawatra, ousted in a 2006 coup.

AIRPORTS RAIDED The occupation of the two main airports in Bangkok by protesters against the Thai prime minister have forced the cancellation of outgoing and incoming flights, domestic and international, stranding thousands of tourists. —

RESIGN Thai PM Somchai Wongsawat clasps his hands in the traditional Thai greeting before speaking on national television from Chiang Mai. He rejects the Army chief's call on Wednesday for him to quit. AFP/EPA

Cabinet meeting

Somchai held the Cabinet meeting amid speculation he was considering a state of emergency, while rumors of the military preparing for a putsch swept the capital.

"They are 100 percent on standby," a high-ranking former military officer, who declined to be named, told Reuters.

In with a brief period of uncertainty rule in September, the Army appeared reluctant to move against the PAD.

"If the government continued to use force in overcoming a state of emergency, while rumors of the military preparing for a putsch swept the capital.

"They are 100 percent on standby," a high-ranking former military officer, who declined to be named, told Reuters.

Tensions spiked on Tuesday when the PAD blockaded Bangkok's Somsubhumi airport, a major Asian air hub, where all flights were cancelled, stranding thousands of tourists. (See story on this page.)

Airport siege

Protesters also laid siege to the old Don Muang airport, shutting what is a big domestic hub and severing air links to the city of 6 million people.

"We appreciate the hardship of private business, but the issue of the problem is the government," PAD leader Somsak Kosaisuk told reporters on Don Muang.

"We know this government is wearing its end," said Somsak, whose group fielded a 50-strong day-night vessel rolling sickening it to ease the airport protests.

Somchai's refusal to call a snap election, as Army chief Anupong Paochinda said he should on Wednesday, intensified speculation of an imminent coup.

Anupong has repeatedly said he would not take sides arguing the Army is powerless to heal the fundamental political rifts between the Bangkok elite and middle classes who despise Thaksin, and the rural and urban poor who love him.

Debating over coup?

But saw military source said Army, Navy and Air Force top brass were locked in talks late into the night, debating whether to launch what would be the 18th coup or attempted coup in 76 years of on-off democracy.

There were signs that the latest surge in violence could backfire against the PAD, with newspapers that have indulged it in the past appalled by the airport disruptions.

"This is not civil disobedience. It's the PAD holding travellers hostage," the Nation said in an editorial.

Tension has been rising across the country.

A rival progovernment group has clustered to hit the streets against the PAD, and there were reports of gunfire during the night near Government House, the prime minister's compound occupied by the PAD since August. No injuries were reported.

In Chiang Mai, a progovernment gang died an antigovernment activist after dragging him from his car.

The long-running source has paralyzed government decision-making, stirring fears it could exacerbate the impact of the global slowdown and rip the export-driven economy into recession. Reports from Reuters and Agence France-Presse

800 Pinoys stranded at Bangkok's airport

From page A1

were still canceled until further notice. Another Philippine airline, Cebu Pacific, said it had canceled all flights from Bangkok until Nov. 30, in response to the capital said.

Thai Airways also canceled its flights from Manila to Bangkok.

Those stranded passengers had to stay in hotels at their own expense.

In Manila, the Department of Foreign Affairs (DFA) said late night that the Philippine Embassy in Bangkok had been assisting the stranded travelers.

Earlier, it advised Filipinos against nonessential travel to Thailand as recommended by the embassy for their safety and convenience.

Those already in Thailand should contact the embassy for help, said the DFA spokesperson, Assistant Secretary Gloria Cornelia.

Since the closure of the airport on Tuesday night, Cebu Pacific canceled four flights, chartered Manila-based one via Clark in Pampanga—involving at least 600 passengers. Its last flight (5J 952) for Manila left Bangkok early Wednesday with no passengers.

Cebu Pacific flies once daily from Bangkok to Manila with 150–170 passengers, and three times a week to Cebu, with 140–150 passengers.

PAL has canceled four flights involving at least 480 passengers since Wednesday. PAL's last flight (PR 732) to Manila left at 11:20 p.m. on Tuesday.

PAL flies two times daily from Bangkok to Manila, carrying 150 to 200 passengers on a single flight.

Frantic callers

Officers of PAL and Cebu Pacific have been besieged by calls from anxious and irate passengers asking for information on the next available flights. Most Filipino passengers were tourists flying home to Bangkok-based employees going home for a short vacation, while many foreigners were attending important meetings in Manila.

A passenger whose father had just died began pestering Cebu Pacific. Others on vacation were angry that they would be spending less time in Manila because they could not yet fly home.

As of press time last night, there was still no indication when the airport would finally resume operations.

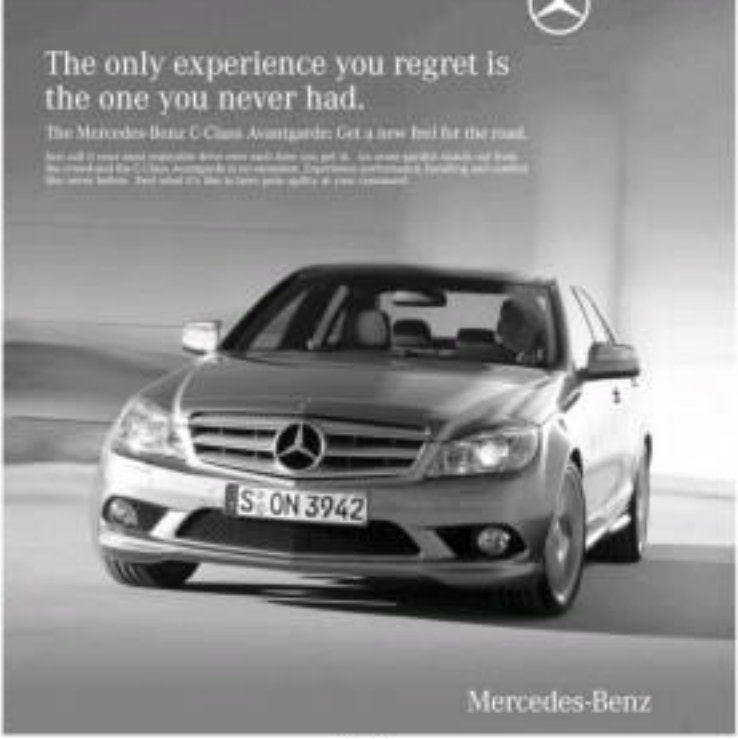
The hapless went to the airport on Thursday afternoon to find the place at a standstill and virtually deserted. Antigovernment protesters occupied the entrances to the departure areas on the fourth floor, together with stranded Thai Muslims on their way to Saudi Arabia.

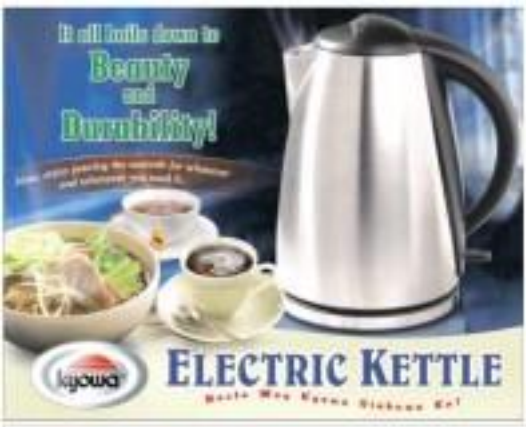
Some Western tourists said they didn't know the airport was closed and doubted if they would ever return to Thailand again.

If the high stockpiles of food and bottles of water were any indication, the protesters could be prepared for a long siege until Prime Minister Somchai resigns.

Asean summit

Thailand is now considering the postponement of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (Asean) summit scheduled for next month in Chiang Mai if the standoff at the two international airports in Bangkok's main commercial airport in Don Muang was also ordered closed yesterday, totally isolating the capital from the rest of the world.





One Filipino reported hurt at Oberoi Hotel

THE PHILIPPINES' FOREIGN DEPARTMENT condemned the deadly terrorist attacks in India and ordered stepped up security to prevent similar outrages at home.

At least one Filipino sustained minor injuries during the attack on the Oberoi Hotel, where two other workers along with their wives were evacuated safely to another hotel, the Philippine Embassy in Mumbai reported.

"The entire Filipino nation and Filipinos around the world mourn with the families of those who died and were hurt because of the Mumbai attacks," presidential spokesperson Anthony Golez said in a statement.

"We condemn these terrorist attacks against mankind," he said, adding that Manila was "united" with India in its quest to crush terror groups.

National Security Adviser Norberto Gonzales sought to allay fears of similar terror attacks in the Philippines.

"The apparatus for preventive measures has been in place. We've been in this game for a long time. Anything that comes out, there are appropriate responses in threats," he said.

Director Leopoldo Bataoil, Metro Manila police chief, previously said that he had initiated the "Metro Manila Shield" beginning Nov 21 to secure the public from troublemakers who might take advantage of the holiday season.

Bataoil, meanwhile, announce engaging 13,500 of Metro Manila's 15,000 policemen would also defend the capital from terrorist attacks similar to those executed in India. Bataoil told the Inquirer by phone yesterday.

In the next few months, he said, thousands of additional men would pound the beat on foot or on board patrol cars on a 24-hour basis to guard train stations, malls, entertainment districts, hotels and other vital establishments, he said.

Police checkpoints would also be set up in many parts of Metro Manila, he said.

Lt. Col. Ernesto Torres Jr., Armed Forces of the Philippines spokesperson, said the military would continue to provide intelligence reports to the police.

In a text message, Hezbollaye Bay. Rizki Golez said the attacks in Mumbai appeared to be an offshoot of "a long-standing offensive" Filipino cells and would not cut off "copycat attacks" in the Philippines. With reports from Cherbidan T. Ragavio, Cynthia D. Rebano and Evelyn R. Ty

World leaders condemn attacks

From page A1

city, said in a statement.

"These coordinated attacks on innocent civilians demonstrate the grave and urgent threat of terrorism ... The United States must continue to strengthen our partnerships with India and nations around the world to root out and destroy terrorist networks ... We stand with the people of India."

UN Secretary General Ban Ki-moon: "Such violence is totally unacceptable ... The Secretary General reiterates his conviction that no cause or grievance can justify indiscriminate attacks against civilians. He calls for the perpetrators to be brought to justice swiftly."

Japanese Prime Minister Taro Aso: "This kind of terrorism is unforgivable, extremely despicable and vicious. I feel strong resentment and deeply condemn it. Japan is with the Indian people who are fighting against terrorism and we will cooperate with the Indian government."

Pakistan Prime Minister Yousuf Raza Gilani: "Prime Minister Yousuf Raza Gilani while strongly condemning the barbarous act of violence in Mumbai has expressed deep sorrow over the loss of precious lives," the Pakistani government said in a statement.

Afghan President Hamid Karzai: "Terrorism is a tyrant enemy which threatens all of the humanity and has taken into challenge the region of South Asia," Karzai said.

Sri Lankan President Mahinda Rajapaksa: "The attacks on leading hotels, hospitals and public transport in Mumbai, the business and financial capital of India, show that the terrorists are targeting an important sector of the Indian economy, with a view to destabilizing democracy in India."

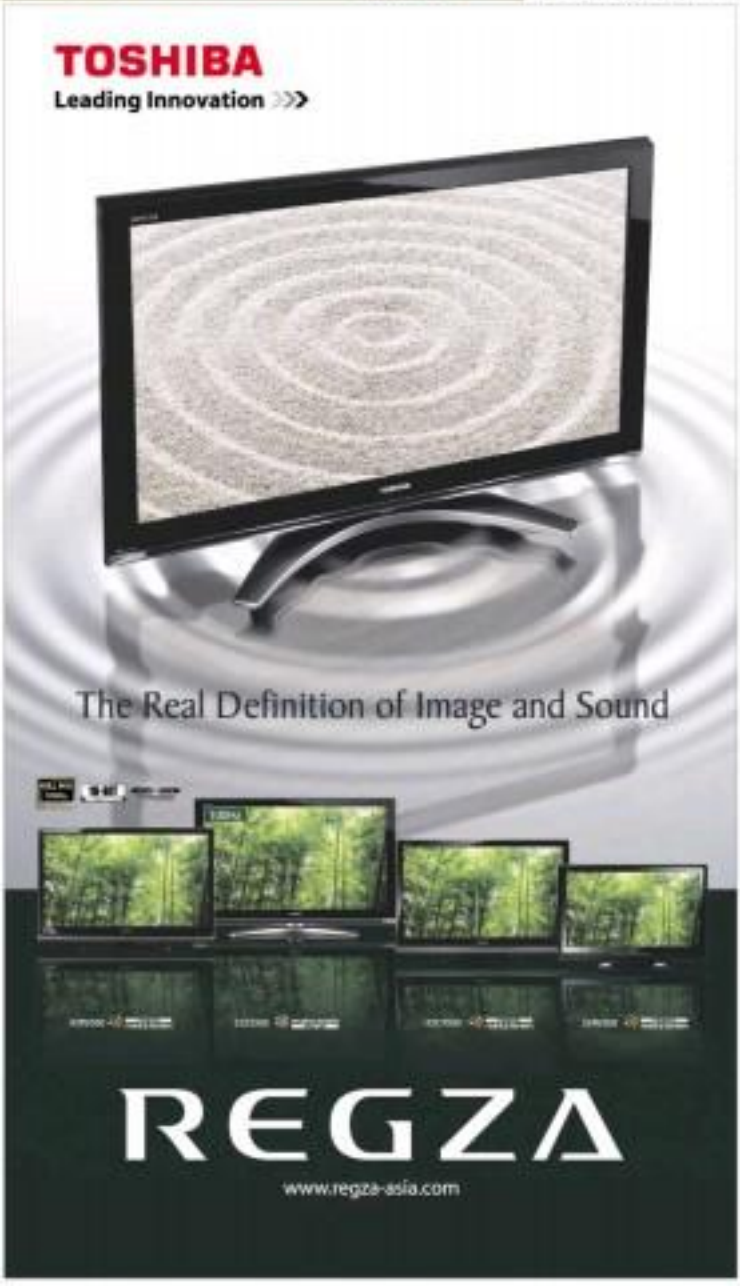
British Prime Minister Gordon Brown: "These outrageous attacks in Mumbai will be met with a vigorous response. I have sent a message to Prime Minister Singh that the UK stands solidly with his government as they respond, and to offer all necessary help. Urgent action is under way to offer every possible protection to British citizens in the region," Brown said in a statement issued by his office.

French Foreign Minister Kevin Rudd: "Whatever group has perpetrated this attack, they are cowards, absolute cowards, and murderers," Rudd said. "This cowardly attack on India's stability, peace and democracy reminds us all that international terrorism is far from defeated, and that we must all maintain our vigilance ... We stand ready to assist India in any way it needs right now."

Russian President Dmitry Medvedev: "We are concerned about the loss of life and consider that acts of terrorism of this type are harmful to the whole international scene and are a challenge to humanity," Medvedev said through a translator during a visit to Venezuela.

British Foreign Secretary David Miliband: "Today's attacks in Mumbai which have claimed many innocent victims remind us, yet again, of the threat we face from violent extremists. I condemn these attacks unreservedly. Our thoughts are with the families and friends of those killed and injured. The UK and India will continue their joint efforts to counter the actions of terrorists," Miliband said in a statement released on the Foreign Office website.

Acting Australian Foreign Minister Simon Crean: "This is a cowardly act, it's indiscriminate, it's a terrorist act. It's insulting democracy, and it takes an element and casualties innocent people." Crean told reporters. Reports from Reuters and AFP



101 die in terror attacks

Front page A1

At least 101 people were killed and 314 wounded in coordinated attacks that began on Wednesday evening when the teams of gunmen in black clothes and armed with heavy weapons and explosives went on a rampage in Mumbai, India's financial capital.

Police said the gunmen were following a well-planned and coordinated strategy that appeared to target Britons and Americans.

Television footage showed gunmen in a pick-up truck spraying people with rifle fire and throwing grenades as the vehicle drove down a Mumbai street.

They stormed the Taj and the nearby Oberoi Hotel, the popular Cafe Leopold, hospitals, a Jewish center, a crowded train station and at least five other sites.

Indian Prime Minister Manmohan Singh on Thursday said in an address to the nation that the attacks were well planned and probably had "external linkages," and that the gunmen "intended to create a sense of terror by choosing high-profile targets."

He said that New Delhi would "take up strongly" the use of neighbors' territory to launch attacks on India. Indian governments have in the past blamed neighboring Pakistan or sometimes Bangladesh for supporting or harboring militant groups that plague attacks.

Some 17 hours after the late-evening assault, soldiers and militants were still exchanging intermittent fire and more than 100 people were trapped inside rooms of the Taj.

"People who were held up there, they have all been rescued," Maharashtra state police chief A.N. Roy told the NDTV news channel. "But there are gunmen in other rooms, we don't know how many."

Roy said some people were still apparently being held hostage in the Oberoi. "Our information is being conducted more sensitively to ensure there are no casualties of innocent people."

Attackers most likely Indians

Police said at least six foreigners were among those killed in the attacks, which were claimed by the little-known Deccan Mujahideen group. Witnesses said the attackers were young South Asian men in their early 20s, most likely Indians, speaking Hindi or Urdu.

"Before all the neighborhoods, and Muslims living in India should not be troubled," a militant inside the Oberoi, spoke to Indian television by telephone.

The man, who identified himself only as Sahabuddin, said he was one of seven armed men inside the hotel and warned Islamic militants to be freed from Indian jails.

Later, an explosion was heard in the hotel, a witness said.

At least two guests, trapped in their rooms in the Taj, also phoned TV stations. One said the fire doors were locked, and another said he had seen two dead bodies by the swimming pool.

"Two of my colleagues are still in there and the last one I spoke to them was three hours ago and then the phone battery died," said a German economist who escaped the Taj.

'Gunshots following us'

Dolbir Batra, who runs a lingerie shop in Mumbai, had just sat down for dinner by the pool at the Taj when she heard the first shots. She ran upstairs and huddled under a table in the Sea Lounge restaurant.

She, and about 50 others who were with her, tried to remain as quiet as possible.

"The gunshots were following us," said Batra.

It wasn't until 4 a.m., more than six hours after the first shots rang out, that Ambassador Ispahi escorted people out of the hotel.

That's when Batra climbed down a fire ladder to safety.

A handful of people sneaked out earlier, including a group guided by security personnel who happened to be dining at the hotel. They shuffled five at a time down more than 20 flights of stairs. Many took their shoes off to minimize the noise.

The spiraling stairway was narrow and steep, and it was so hot they had to stop three times on the half-hour journey, said Francois Ichita, the Indian executive vice president of Bunge Ambassador, an investment firm.

Two men carried a woman in a wheelchair down, he said.

15 foreigners held hostage

Others were not so lucky. The gunmen are still believed to be holed up inside, holding as many as 15 foreigners hostage, said Anees Ahmed, a top state official.

From outside the hotel, people could be seen silhouetted in the windows of their hotel rooms, apparently unable to get past a fire that smoldered for hours and then erupted into flames shortly after 5 a.m.

Some raised their fists ruefully against the glass; others flicked their lights on and off in distress. One man hanged a large lamp against the window. A couple took turns waving a white flag.

Witnesses said about 200 people—hotel staff, diners at the Kwik restaurant, and people attending an Indian business conference—hid together for five hours in a conference room at the top of the adjacent Taj Towers.

They drew the curtains and crouched under tables. Hotel staff passed around glasses of water.

Women were forced to urinate in the bucket and men relieved themselves in the kitchen.

Police have not said how many died at the Taj, but at least one Japanese man is known to have been killed there, according to Bombay Hospital. The hospital said nine Europeans from the hotel were admitted, three of them in critical condition with gunshot wounds.

Attacks to spook investors

The attacks were timed to spook investors in one of Asia's largest and fastest-growing economies.

Mumbai has been several major bomb attacks in the past, but never anything so obviously targeted at foreigners.

Authorities closed stock, bond and foreign exchange markets, and the central bank said it would continue auctions to keep cash flowing through interbank lending markets, which seized up after the global financial crisis.

"There could be 100,000 people inside the (Oberoi) hotel, but our main objective is the escort figure so many people have locked themselves inside their rooms," Maharashtra state deputy chief minister R.R. Patil told reporters.

"There could be 10-12 terrorists inside the hotel," he said. "There are no negotiations with the terrorists."

Targets British, Americans

The attackers appeared to target British and American as they sought hostages. Israelis were also among the foreigners, a television channel reported, while police said an Israeli rabbi was also being held by gunmen in a Mumbai apartment.

Hostage expert Uday Bhatkar said the attacks could influence tensions between Hindus and Muslims.

"The fact that they were trying to segregate British and American passport holders definitely suggests Islamist forces," Bhatkar said.

Police said they had shot dead four gunmen and arrested nine suspects. They said 32 policemen were killed, including Hemant Karkare, the chief of the police antiterrorism squad in Mumbai.

Schools were closed and a curfew was imposed around the Gateway of India, a popular tourist destination. Fire train services were running an essential taking people to work in the stranded city.

Gunmen in 3 buildings

The gunmen appeared to be holed up mainly in three buildings. Private citizens inside the Taj, Oberoi and Mumbai headquarters of the Nariman Bhavan Jewish synagogue Chabad Lubavitch. They were holding hostages and bond hostages, as Indian commandos surrounded the buildings.

Among those held captive were Americans, Britons, Indians, Israelis, Canadians, Germans, New Zealanders and a Singaporean.

"We're going to catch them dead or alive," Maharashtra Home Minister R. R. Patil told reporters. "No one in our Mumbai is an attack on the rest of the country."

At least three top Indian police officers—including the chief of the anti-terror squad—were killed during these attacks, said A.N. Roy, a top police official.

Mumbai, on the western coast of India overlooking the Arabian Sea, is home to splendid Victorian-architecture hotels during the British raj and is one of the most populated cities in the world with some 18 million crammed into slum pockets, high rises and crumbling mansions.

Among the other places attacked was the 19th century Chhatrapati Shivaji railroad station—a beautiful example of Victorian Gothic architecture—where gunmen sprayed bullets into the crowded terminal, leaving the floor splattered with blood.

Other gunmen attacked Cafe Leopold, a landmark popular with foreigners, and the police headquarters in the town. Mumbai, the area where most of the attacks took place, Gunmen also attacked Cama and Albless Hospital and G.T. Hospital, though it was not immediately clear if anyone was killed.

Relations between Hindus, who make up more than 80 percent of India's 1 billion population, and Muslims, who make up about 14 percent, have sporadically erupted into bouts of sectarian violence since British-ruled India was split into independent India and Pakistan in 1947. —Reports from AP, AFP and Reuters

'Young gunmen targeted Brits, Americans'

Front page A1

"My friend said to me, 'Don't be a hero, don't say you are British.'"

On Thursday morning, at least two gunmen were barricaded in the building around half a dozen hostages inside the Oberoi, while more hostages were also being held in the city's Taj Mahal hotel.

Chamberlain told Indian television that he and other guests had been herded together by the gunmen and taken up to the upper floors of the hotel.

Rakesh Patel, a guest at the Taj, said that "they were after foreigners, because they were asking for British or American passports."

"They came from the restaurants and took us up the stairs," Patel, a British citizen based in Hong Kong, told the NDTV news channel. "We have blackmailed by attacks.

Boys in jeans, T-shirts

"They were very young, like boys really, wearing jeans and T-shirts," Patel said, adding that he and another hostage managed to escape on the 18th floor.

One woman remained staying at the Taj hotel told how she lay on the floor of one room with 20 other petrified guests for six hours as gunmen fought special commandos.

"We could hear the firing coming through the hotel. We heard the firing and the blasts. In the end the firemen broke the windows of the room and we climbed down with the firemen," she said.

Military units stormed the Taj hotel in the early hours of Thursday morning to confirm a handful of gunmen armed with assault rifles and grenades.

In the encounter a huge fire broke out at the top of the hotel, engulfing some guests.

One woman contacted during the night by an Inquirer reporter said she and around 20 other guests were bundled up inside.

"We were shut in and we have one man who has a bullet wound in his stomach," she whispered down her phone. "He's bleeding badly and he needs to go to hospital."

Actress hid in cupboard

Australian television actress Brooke Satchwell hid inside a small cupboard when the violence erupted at the Taj.

"So I stepped inside the lobby gazebo to attend to go off," Satchwell said. "It was really terrifying. There were people getting shot in the corridor. There was someone dead outside the bathroom."

The head of the Madrid government and a British member of the European Parliament (MEP) were inside the Taj when the gunmen attacked but escaped unhurt.

"I saw one man on his morning run, obviously gun-shot wounds," said MEP Syed Kamal. "I then saw him flying from and I saw people hiding the floor, people right next to me," MEP Syed Kamal was quoted as saying by the BBC.

An Australian student said his girlfriend was shot and wounded when other gunmen stormed the Cafe Leopold restaurant in Mumbai and opened fire.

Caught in a cafe

David Colaco, 22, said his partner Kate Anstee, 24, had just arrived for a holiday to celebrate their graduation from university.

"We had literally just ordered and then it started like firecrackers—people were screaming," he told The Courier-Mail/Courier-paper.

Anstee was shot in the leg, with the bullet breaking her femur and exiting through the front of her thigh, while Colaco was grazed by a bullet.

"I turned around and she was crawling out the door because she couldn't walk," he added.

At another Mumbai landmark, the Chhatrapati Shivaji Terminus railway station, Nitesh Jones's hands shook as he spoke of seeing commuters mowed down while walking in outside the late-night train.

'They just fired randomly'

Four young men carrying big guns and wearing black T-shirts and blue jeans rushed in, Jones said. "They just fired randomly at people and then ran away. In seconds, people fell to the ground."

Sobbing and shaking his head, he said the attackers were in their 20 years old or the most.

"They were so young. They were young boys," Jones said. "I was standing behind. I was just behind. If they had turned around, it would have been me."

Just a few kilometers away, eyewitnesses said gunmen attacked a police van, then opened fire on crowds that had collected near two hospitals close to the police headquarters.

"We felt the ground shake and heard the explosions," Manish Tripathi said, as police rushed past one of the hospitals. "We heard a car speed up behind us, it was a police van, but the men inside were firing at us."

'What do we do?'

In seconds, people around Tripathi were shot at.

"Men were screaming that they had lost their fingers. There was blood all over," said Tripathi who escaped unhurt. "Some were shot in the leg, some on the shoulder or head. I feel they are still surrounding."

Opposite the Oberoi, a news colleague reporter, Preet Desai, paced in a deserted promenade as dawn broke. He said a friend's father was inside the hotel at a business meeting when shots were fired.

"My friend is shattered. His dad is not answering his cell. What do we do?" Desai said. "Do you know anyone inside, any hotel who can give us information, any information?" —Reports from AP, AFP and AP

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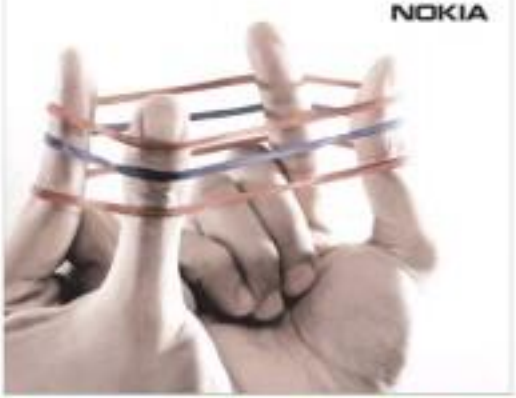

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NEWS

Another worker dies at Hanjin jobsite

SUBIC BAY FREEPORT—ANOTHER WORKER HAS DIED AT THE Hanjin Heavy Industries and Construction Philippines Inc. site on Redondo Peninsula inside this free port.

The death Wednesday of Jose Vesare Gil brought to 15 the total number of fatalities from work-related accidents since mid-2006, Pyeong Jong Yu, general manager of the South Korean-owned shipyard, said in a telephone interview yesterday.

Two other workers died in traffic-related incidents in the same period, he said.

Hanjin employs some 8,000 Filipinos in shipbuilding work, while about 5,000 are working on the construction of a second shipyard.

In the latest incident, Gil, 43, was unloading the dustbin of an air conditioning duct when it fell on him at about 9:30 a.m., Yu said.

He said Gil, of Iloilo, Zamboles, and employed by Hanjin subcontractor PhilNikko, died while being taken to a hospital.

He said Hanjin had started an investigation of the incident to find out if it was "an industrial mishap, an unavoidable human error or negligence by PhilNikko."

"If the investigation reveals the incident was caused by laxity or the observance of occupational safety in construction operations, [Hanjin] assures that those responsible as supervisors and authorities concerned shall be made answerable, regardless of their rank and position," he said.

"If negligence on the part of PhilNikko is the proximate cause, [Hanjin] shall take all necessary steps to hold the subcontractor liable and will make a full investigation to ascertain whether proper and enough measures are taken to ensure the prevention of any further accidents," he added.

Hanjin has assured Gil's family of financial support for his burial.

Yu, meanwhile, said the death last week of Hanjin worker Philip Mendoza and the injuries suffered by two Filipinos and a Korean did not happen in the course of shipbuilding operations.

"[It was] caused by a vehicular accident as a result of human frailty and not because of any disregard for the basic and mandatory occupational safety policies at the shipyard," he said in the same statement.

Mendoza, 48, from Castillejos town, died on Nov. 20 after a metal structure fell on him when the truck he was riding in crashed in the shipyard where he was working.

He died while being rushed to St. Jude Hospital in Olongapo City.

Mendoza's three companions—William Liberata, 25; Rolen Mog, 22; and Roman Kang Jong Ho, who was driving the truck—were hurt.

Armand Arreza, administrator of the Subic Bay Metropolitan Authority, said the agency was looking at any lapses on the part of Hanjin and the contractor.

Arreza said a six-man SBMA team had been assigned to the shipyard since June to monitor safety and labor issues.

Chester Arapito, secretary general of the Kilusan para sa Pambansang Demokrasya Olongapo-Subic chapter, and Noel de Mesa, president of the Shipbuilders and Construction Workers Association, condemned Hanjin for the deaths of the workers.

They said the company had failed to install and institute occupational and health safety standards.

Giving reports by workers, De Mesa said Hanjin had violated a labor law requiring companies to have one doctor for every 300 workers.

What Hanjin has is only a clinic staffed with three nurses. "There is no adequate medical facility on site," said De Mesa. *Robert Santiago and Dante Ortiz, Inquirer Central Luzon*

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Per CAB Approval dated October 30, 2008

Aplus METRO
Editor Peter G. Dipasupil

TWO of the farmers try to resist policewomen who were dragging them out of the Land Registration Authority lobby.

Dispersed!

Picketing farmers dragged out of LRA

By Nancy Carvajal and Alcuin Papa

POLICE YESterday boldly carried out 28 farmers from Negros Occidental who picketed and occupied the lobby of the Land Registration Office in Quezon City Wednesday.

Supt. Ferdinand Angal, commander of the Quezon City Police District Station 10, said the farmers would be charged with "illegal assembly for occupying a public property establishment."

The eight women and 20 men were detained at Police Station 10 in Kamuning and would be subjected to inquest proceedings, Angal said.

Angal said they had given the farmers enough time to leave the LRA premises but they resisted.

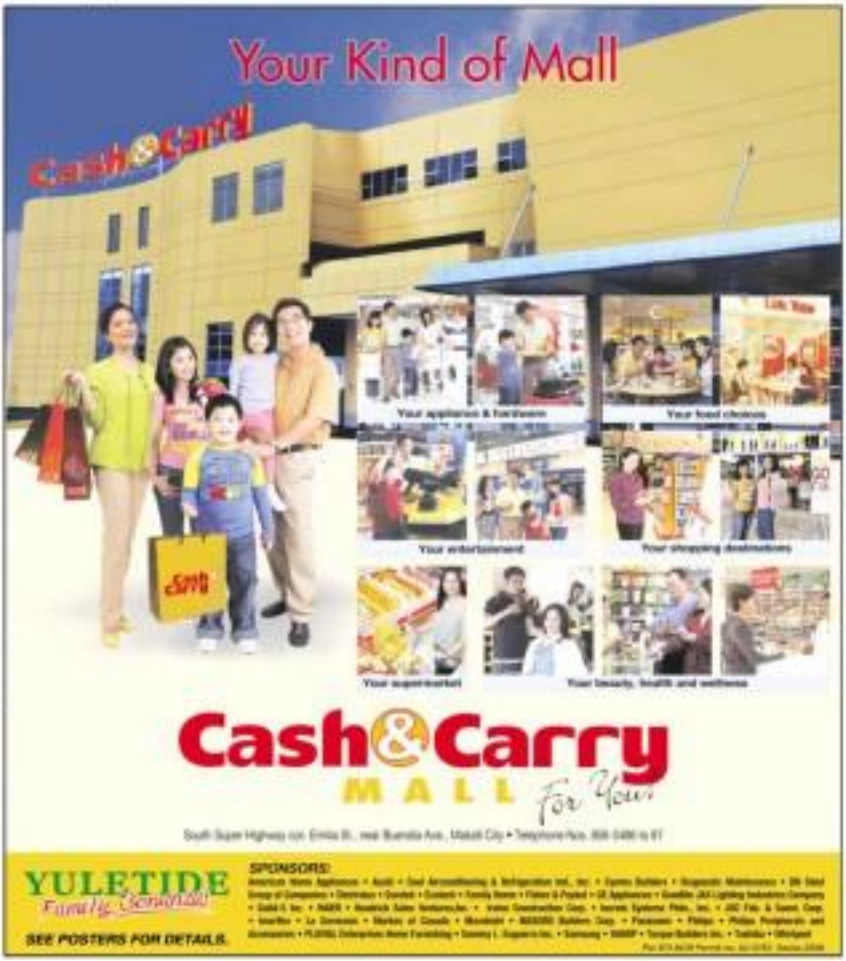
"Since Wednesday evening, we asked them to leave the LRA premises as they were hampering the services of the office," Angal told the Inquirer.

He explained they have to carry the farmers out of the LRA building after two negotiations for them to disperse peacefully bogged down at around 9:30 a.m.

Two of the farmers were handcuffed during the dispersal and were loaded in a waiting air-conditioned bus and brought to the police station in Kamuning.

He added that the request to disperse the farmers came from the Quezon

DISPERSED, A27



We're all liable, says barangay 'SanLo' chair on P50-M lamppost, shed deal

By Miles Morales

"DON'T PIN ALL THE BLAME on me because we're all liable."

In his answer to a complaint by fellow barangay officials, Barangay San Lorenzo chair Joshua John Santiago brushed off the allegations of ordering the purchase of lampposts and making deals worth P50 million, branding the claims as "unverified" and "malicious."

He said the liability of the acquisition of street lights and connector sheds rested in the barangay council, which the complainants are part of, stressing that "the chair is not the "barangay." He asked the blotted stay ceased to dismiss the charges against him.

"Assuming that there is irregularity in the purchase of the subject lampposts, it is the commission who should be liable considering that it was them who resolved the purchase of the lampposts," Santiago said in a statement a copy of which he furnished the Inquirer this Wednesday night.

"... As earlier elaborated, the chairman is not the barangay," he stressed.

The case stemmed from the purchase of some 1,200 prefabricated lampposts worth P50 million for the barangay where only 300 lampposts had so far been installed.

The complainants said the remaining 670 pieces are stored in a warehouse rented for P50,000 a month.

Also, the complainants questioned the purchase of materials for connector sheds amounting close to P5.8 million and a donation to the Brave Syndicate Association of the Philippines (BSAP).

The complainants—barangay kagawads Dennes Moya, Lolit Legaspi-Encinares, Brigido Dilag, Jocelyn Hernandez and Bramon Golez—are seeking Santiago's preventive suspension and a thorough investigation on the purchases.

Santiago added that the acquisition of lampposts were authorized by a barangay resolution which the council passed in 2006, finding the accusation "malicious" for making it appear that he alone ordered the purchase of the streetlights.

Throughout his 26-page answer which the office of the city secretary received on Wednesday afternoon, Santiago kept on highlighting the barangay chair's role as "merely a presiding officer of the council" and "the executive officer of the barangay."

Santiago also said the acquisition of the lampposts went through the barangay bids and awards committee, whose members include complainants Dilag, Bueno and Hidoc.

The committee recommended the approval of the contract to the barangay council, the barangay chair added.

MetroBriefs

Free calls for Manila residents

MANILA residents who have relatives in the United States and Canada may now avail of free calls being offered by the city government. According to Mayor Alfredo Lim, the free calls project is part of the city government's Christmas gift to Manileños who want to talk to their relatives and friends in the said countries but do not have the money to spend for such calls. The toll-free booth is located at the ground floor of City Hall and is open to the public from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m., Monday to Friday. It will be available until February 2009. Nina G. Garcia

Free phone repair course in QC

RESIDENTS are not only barred youth in Quezon City can now learn cellphone repair for free beginning today. Mayor Feliciano Belmonte Jr. will lead city officials at the project's launching and first lesson this afternoon to be held in Barangay Tandang Sora on Commonwealth Avenue. The training program is spearheaded by the Center for People's Action for Development, a non-governmental organization conducting livelihood projects for the city's poor and marginalized. Lessons will be conducted four hours a day with morning and afternoon batches. Belmonte said the teachers are accredited by the Technical Education and Skills Development Authority. Jodi M. Aurelio

Newborn screening in Manila

A CITY-RUN hospital in Manila is offering free newborn screening to Manila residents beginning this week, the Manila government announced Wednesday. Newborn screening is a requirement under Republic Act 9288, otherwise known as the Newborn Screening Law of 2004, which stipulates that all newborn babies must undergo screening (blood test to determine susceptibility to diseases) to ensure their good health. Ospital ng Sampaloc director Dr. Jonel Tan said the procedure, which costs about P1,000 and must be done within a week from birth, will be given free to all newborn confinees at the hospital. Aside from free newborn screening, Tan said they are also giving free delivery for first-born babies, while relieving wound and subsequent births for the duration of confinement. Nina G. Garcia

Christmas gift day in Malabon

SOME 900 employees of the Malabon City government will receive their 13th-month pay and cash bonuses on today, according to Mayor Canuto Oreta. He said the early release of the 13th month pay is a reward for the "sterling performance and hard work" the employees have shown during the year. Apart from the 13th month pay, a P5,000 cash gift will also be given to the employees. A 14th month pay will also be released to the city hall employees by Dec. 15. Beverly T. Rabulan

Parking space for bikes

A PROPOSED ordinance is seeking to require all major business establishments in Quezon City to provide ample parking space for motorbikes to secure them from thieves. The Quezon City council said it is proposing the measure due to rising incidents of motorcycle theft in the city. Under the proposal by councilors Jaime Borromeo and Maria Grace Matias, businesses who fail to comply with the parking space requirement will be made to pay a P5,000 fine or their owners face a one-year prison term. The major establishments covered by the proposed measure include shopping malls, banks, restaurants, and hospitals. Jodi M. Aurelio

Caught at a checkpoint

FOUR robbery/car thieves were arrested at a police checkpoint in Marilog, Bicol, yesterday morning. But three of their companions escaped and are now the subjects of a manhunt, police said. Supt. Allan Rodilosa, group director of the 41st IMG mobile group, identified those arrested as Felipe Eley, 38, Rodel Bonoan, 38, Sotherio Maldo, 36, and Jeronimo Miranda, 33. Rodilosa said members of the 41st Provincial Mobile Group manning a checkpoint in Barangay Datnic, in Marilog flagged down a red Isuzu Crosswind with license plate ZGE-851. But instead of stopping, the said vehicle sped off towards Marilog town proper. Police gave chase and finally caught up with the armed group just before they got into the town proper. The suspects yielded two .38 caliber pistols. Beverly T. Rabulan

Youth forum on HIV

THE COMMISSION on the Welfare of Children's Committee on Children and HIV and AIDS will hold today the National Young People's Planning Forum (NYPPF) at the Ateneo de Manila University. NYPPF will serve as the venue for 40 young persons (aged 13-24) to discuss how their sector can meaningfully participate in the HIV and AIDS prevention campaign. The forum is supported by the United Nations Children's Fund (Unicef), Lovelypax, the Philippine National AIDS Council (PNAC) and other government and nongovernment organizations.

Did you know

MANILA suffered from a rice shortage in 1940 because of the war and Japanese occupation government. This was exacerbated by a typhoon in November which dashed hopes for an early harvest. From P100 a sack, the price of rice skyrocketed to P200 a sack.

Cyril C. Bonalaos, Inquirer Research

ONE OF the five suspects, Jocelyn Hernandez Alvarez, is brought to Camp Karingal in Quezon City Thursday for interrogation.

5 suspects in bank van robbery inside UP held

By Nancy C. Carvajal

FIVE SUSPECTS IN THE armored van robbery inside the University of the Philippines early this month, had been arrested and charged without bail, a top police official said yesterday.

Police Director Jefferson Soriano identified the suspects as Edgar Cayanan, Ricardo Tapiru, Benjamin Comeng, Jocelyn "Mike" Hernandez and their leader Armando "Dan-dan" Ochiso.

Soriano also announced in a press conference in Camp Crame, Quezon City, that the P900,000 reward will be given to the informers that led to the arrest of Dennis's group on Nov. 20, 2007 in Guadalupe, Makati City and Market! Market! mall in Taguig City.

He said the suspects were arrested while they were about to rob another bank at the ABC mall in Guadalupe, while Hernandez was apprehended at the Market! Market! mall in Taguig City, also on the same day.

In the said conference, Senior Supt. Nel de Leon of the Regional Intelligence Police Unit briefed media on the involvement of Dehlco's group in the series of banks of bank robbery.

"Four out of the 23 reported high-profile robberies this year, were committed by Dehlco's group," De Leon said.

De Leon said the suspects, who are under right guard in an undisclosed detention cell, have been charged with robbery in band with three counts of frustrated murder and illegal possession of firearms.

"We had had been encountered for the group and the suspects have separately admitted of their participation at the robberies," De Leon told the reporters.

Police had put up the armed men with high-powered firearms disguised as policemen barged into SC Johnsonkoi and seized the firearms of the robbed guards.

Hotel waiter gets 12 years for ex-VP publicist's slay

By Julie M. Aurelio

A QUEZON CITY COURT HAS sentenced a hotel waiter to 12 years and one day in prison for stabbing to death a former publicist of Vice President Noli de Castro during a visit to the victim's home in 2006.

Despite the accused's claim of self-defense from the victim's alleged advances, Judge Alexander Bahot of Regional Trial Court Branch 76 said there were no other witnesses to prove the claim.

In his decision issued yesterday, Judge Bahot Eric Silva, then a waiter at the Bonifacio Hotel, guilty of homicide for the death of PR man Elias "Eli" Fernandez, a landscape who lived in Cubao.

Bahot ruled that the prosecution was not just able to prove to claim that Silva premeditated the killing of Fernandez, who was 57 at the time of his death.

Silva was ordered to pay Fernandez's heirs the amount of P50,000 in moral damages, P50,000 in civil indemnity and other actual costs of litigation.

Fernandez was an entertainment writer and a former publicist for the Vice President, Edward Hagedorn, Bolanio Gos Jaclo dela Cruz, and broadcaster Karina Bautista.

"There being no eyewitness to the killing, the court can't ascribe treachery against accused inasmuch as no evidence was presented that he deliberately adopted a specific method to ensure killing," the judge said.

The court also pointed out that Silva's claim of self-defense against Fernandez's alleged sexual advances cannot be justified if it is uncorroborated by independent evidence.

Fernandez was found dead inside his house in Cubao in Quezon City on the morning of May 26, 2006 after his driver, Froilan Palomo, noticed a fire inside the victim's bedroom.

Court records showed that both Francia and Reynaldo Fernandez saw Silva running for Fernandez outside the condominium the night before and was eventually allowed into the victim's bedroom.

At around past 5 a.m. on May 26, 2006, Francia was awakened by the smell of smoke and the heat which was coming from a fire in Fernandez's room.

Dispersed!

Turn to page A 23

City Police District Director Senior Supt. Magtanggol Gacilada.

According to Jose Bonito Angeles, who acted as the leader of the group, they decided to suspend all the LRA offers on Wednesday evening because the LRA officials still refused to see them.

He also said no one among his group was hurt in the dispersal.

Seeking a dialogue

Angeles said they had been going to the GMA office daily for the past three weeks seeking a dialogue with Administrator Bienvenido Ong.

"We had no choice but to hold a rally because we just wanted to talk to us and we were given the runaround," Angeles said in Filipino.

Angeles said, they arrived in Manila on Nov. 8 and had been camping out at the Department of Agriculture grounds site in Quezon City.

He explained they are here to ask for the assistance of LRA administrators to order Negros Occidental Regional Director Ramon Gonzaga to transfer the title of at least 139 ha of land including the Hacienda Recar owned by the family of Fort Gentlemar Jose Miguel Arroyo, to them as "farmer beneficiaries."

"We have been fighting for this for seven years and this was promised to us by President Gloria Arroyo," he added.

President's assurance

He said President Arroyo had already given a public assurance that Hacienda Recar would be distributed under the CARP last July.

But the farmers have been blaming Mike Arroyo for the failure of land reform in the island and the growing restlessness of the farmers.

Hector Fernandez Hicos, convener and spokesperson of the Bacolod City-based multi-sector group Negros CARP Reform Movement (NCRM) also said Mike Arroyo "is becoming the symbol of landowner resistance to the Comprehensive Agrarian Reform Program."

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PHOTHISAM road Nimrata Bunsa showing her injuries on her face and body in photos taken on May 19. AFP

UK asks: How did system allow man to father 9 kids with 2 daughters?

LONDON—A MAN WHO FA-thered nine children with his two daughters had aroused official suspicion but avoided detection for decades by moving his family frequently and fabricating his victims into aliases, British prosecutors say.

Authorities were investigating on Wednesday exactly how the rapes was never called to account by neighbors, teachers, doctors, social workers, police or his extended family. The 56-year-old man was only apprehended when his daughters finally broke their silence.

Barbara Levy, prosecuting in a life in prison for what a judge said was "the worst crime I have come across" in 40 years of judicial practice.

Prosecutors told the court that the man raped his daughters from the time they were 9 or 10 years old, beating them when they resisted. Over a 23-year period he impregnated them 19 times, and they have seven surviving children. Two more infants died in birth, while the other pregnancies ended in abortion or miscarriage. None of the family can be named because of reporting restrictions to protect the identity of the victims and their children.

Prime Minister Gordon Brown said on Wednesday that people "will rightly want to know how such abuse could go on for so long without the authorities and the wider public services discovering it and taking action."

Britain's child welfare services are already under pressure after the case of "Baby P," a toddler who suffered months of abuse that led to his death, despite repeated visits by social services staff in London.

"If there is a change to be made in the system and the system has failed, we will change the system as a result of the inquiries," Brown said.

And in Sheffield, the northern English city where the family lived for a time, said they had begun an investigation.

"Where were the medical professionals? Where were the social workers? What were they doing for the last 20 years?" said Mark Clegg, leader of the opposition Liberal Democrats, who represents a district of Sheffield.

One answer is that some people did notice. At various points police, schools and medical staff all asked questions about the daughters' situation—but the daughters denied anything was wrong and the pieces were never put together.

The Sheffield case has echoes of the allegations against Josef Fritzl, the Austrian accused of keeping his daughter locked in a cellar for 24 years, fathering seven children by her. He is awaiting trial on charges of murder, rape, incest, false imprisonment and enslavement.

Colette Fritzl, the British man moved his family frequently around northern and central England and lived in small villages to avoid drawing the attention of neighbors.

Prosecutors described how the defendant used intimidation, fear and evasiveness to keep his secret. He ordered his children to keep quiet and when they were older he beat them. Bark described to said the rule ensured the other was being abused until the pregnancies began.

The court was told that the girls' mother left their father in the early 1990s, more than a decade after the abuse began, and it is unclear whether she knew what was going on.

But in June the women finally reported their abuse to social workers. Their father was arrested and last month pleaded guilty to 12 counts of rape. Judge Alan Goldsmith sentenced him to 25 life sentences, to run concurrently, with no possibility of parole for almost 20 years. AP

Malaysian jailed 18 years after horrific maid abuse

KUALA LUMPUR—A MALAY-sian woman was sentenced to 18 years in jail on Thursday for using an iron and scalding water to inflict horrific wounds on her Indonesian maid, in a case that shocked the country.

Former Rights ordered the PM. He was found guilty of three counts of abusing her maid Nirmala Bunsa, who was discovered with severe injuries by a security guard as their apartment condo in 2004.

Nirmala, 23, was convicted of pouring a hot iron on Bunsa's back and breasts, and pouring hot water on her legs as punishment for not doing the chores properly. She was cleaned of a fourth charge of breaking the maid's nose.

Session Court Judge Akhtar Tahir rejected the defense argument that Bunsa was mentally disturbed and that the injuries were self-inflicted, saying that the wounds were in places that were difficult to reach.

"From the statements from the accused, there was underlying anger even after three years. So it is not surprising that she caused the injuries. She admitted that she flogged the victim," he said. AFP

Woman convicted of 3 misdemeanors in MySpace cyber-bullying suicide case

LOS ANGELES—A FEDERAL jury here handed down what legal experts said was the country's first cyber-bullying verdict on Wednesday, convicting a Missouri woman of three misdemeanor charges of computer fraud for her involvement in creating a phony account on MySpace to catch a teenager, who later committed suicide.

The jury deadlocked on a fourth count of conspiracy against the woman, Lori Drew, 49, and the judge, George Wu of the US District Court for the Central District of California, declared a mistrial on that charge.

While it is unclear how severely Drew will be punished—the jury refused the charges to misdemeanors from felonies, and no sentencing date was set—the conviction was highly significant, computer fraud experts said, because it was the first time that a federal statute designed to combat computer crimes was used to prosecute what were essentially abuses of a user agreement on a social networking site.

Under federal sentencing guidelines, Drew could face up to three years in prison and $100,000 in fines, though she has no previous criminal record and her lawyer has asked for a new trial.

In a highly unusual move, Thomas P. O'Brien, the US attorney in Los Angeles, prosecuted the case himself with two subordinates after law enforcement officials in Missouri determined Drew had broken no local laws.

O'Brien, who assured jurors that they would not be making a precedent on the theory that MySpace is based in Los Angeles, where its servers are housed, said the verdict was an "overwhelming message" to users of the Internet.

During the five-day trial, prosecutors portrayed Drew as sending in concert with her daughter Sarah, who was 13 at the time, and Ashley Grills, a family friend and employee of Drew's magazine coupon business in Dardenne Prairie, Mo.

Testimony showed that they created a fake 16-year-old boy named Josh Evans," as an Internet identity on MySpace to communicate with Sarah's neighborhood nemesis, Megan Meier, who was 13 and had a history of depression and suicidal impulses.

After weeks of online courtship with "Josh," Megan was distressed one afternoon in October 2006, according to testimony at the trial, when the received an e-mail message from him that said, "the world would be a better place without you."

Grills, who is now 20, testified under an immunity agreement that shortly after that message was sent, Megan went back, "You're the kind of boy a girl would kill herself over," Megan hanged herself in terms of torment in her bedroom. AVI

CHILDREN walk past rainwater and sewage near Harare on Mar. 21. The UN says the number of deaths in Zimbabwe since August from a cholera outbreak has increased by 19 and the disease has spread to more than half of the country.

Zimbabwe's children splash in sewage outside cholera clinic

HARARE—CHILDREN IN THE suburbs of Zimbabwe's capital run along a stream of raw sewage, leaping between the mountains of garbage that has not been collected in months, just steps from an emergency cholera clinic.

The suburb of Budiriro is the epicenter of a nationwide cholera outbreak that has infected nearly 9,000 people and killed 304, according to the United Nations—the latest tragic consequence of Zimbabwe's economic collapse.

Nearly 100 patients are waiting for treatment at the clinic, but shortages of drugs and equipment mean that few will actually receive any help.

A vehicle from the funeral parlor stands parked outside.

Inside the clinic, patients lie on the floor to await treatment. The baby cots deep on beds that have no mattresses.

"Things are bad," one patient lying on the floor. "There are no drips, when they come it may be too late for some of us."

Cholera causes severe diarrhea and vomiting that eventually kills a patient, but it usually prevented by washing hands, cleaning foods, and keeping drinking water away from sewage.

Those conditions are almost unimaginable luxuries in many parts of Zimbabwe, where the crumbling economy means water and power are frequently turned off, and utilities can't always treat drinking water.

Vegetable vendors still sell their wares amid the urban debris, unconcerned by the swarms of flies hovering above their uncovered tables.

"There is no water and toilets are not flushing. We are struggling," Chipo Chimwe said serena mom in the neighborhood of Kambuzuma.

"We will die if things remain as they are. They say we have to boil our water—when there is no water and no electricity. We need help urgently."

Zimbabwe's government insists the outbreak is under control, but residents here say they fear many more will die unless sanitation facilities are repaired urgently.

Women and children in Kambuzuma wash their laundry in a shallow well, saying they does not use the water in their taps at home.

"The only water coming from our taps is not properly treated," Tracy Watson says.

"They drinking water—it smells of sewage. Children are suffering from diarrhea. We don't know when things will get back to normal," she sighs.

Victoria Beranga, another Kambuzuma resident, accused Zimbabwe's political leaders of wasting time in power-sharing talks rather than addressing the humanitarian crisis.

"Those politicians just think about themselves at an expense," she said.

"It would have been better for them to hand those talks to Kambuzuma where they can see raw sewage daily." AFP

In US, calls for recall of baby milk spread

SAN JOSE, CALIFORNIA—DES-pitenot that laboratory tests have detected traces of contamination in several major brands of infant formula groups and consumers and confusion on Wednesday with a national consumer's group and the FDA into voluntary protocol demanding a food and Drug Administration recall and the federal agency saying it had released no evidence that any other chemicals were found in which toy selling products.

An unrelated process called manufacturers looking for guidance about the presence of melamine and a toy ingredient in US-made formula, the FDA announced on Tuesday that the baby food was safe and parents should continue feeding it to their babies.

A spokesperson for one major manufacturer insisted the FDA for its release of the tentative information.

Melamine is the industrial chemical found in Chinese infant formula—in far larger concentrations—that has been blamed for killing at least three babies and making at least 54,000 others ill.

A spreadsheet the AP obtained from the FDA under a Freedom of Information Act request named that Mead Johnson's infant Formula Powder, Enfamil 12FE with iron contained traces of melamine.

On Wednesday, FDA spokespersons Judy Leute said that spreadsheet contained an error—that the FDA had incorrectly switched the names of the Mead Johnson product with Nestle's Good Start Supreme infant formula with iron. That meant, Leute said, that the Nestle's Good Start Supreme powder—while Mead Johnson's Enfamil had traces of cyanuric acid. AP

Better Red than Dead: Jordan grapples with water crisis

A JORDANIAN woman destitute takes a break during a search for land mines near the Jordanian-Syrian border on Nov. 26.

By Jerome Cartillier

DEIR ALLA, JORDAN—DESPITE her scarce and fearful that climate change will amplify its problems, Jordan is pinning its hopes for liquid salvation on a scheme with an unsalted: trading water from the Red Sea to replenish the dead Sea.

The $2.5 billion route ($14.3-billion) "Peace Canal" is the heart of the government's vision of shaking them in a country that is mostly bone-dry desert and one of the 10 driest places in the world.

At present, the country's main conduit is the 110 kilometers King Abdullah Canal, which brings "blue gold" down the valley of the River Jordan from a range of small rivers to the north of the country.

It originates around 5,000 farms and provides the capital, Amman, with its key supplies of water.

But five successive years of below-average rainfall have added significantly to the country's water woes, leading fears that worse is to come when man-made climate change really bites.

In theory, 250 million cubic meters (8.8 billion cu. feet) of water are routed annually from the canal, but this figure has been rationed for several years.

"We are one of the poorest countries in the world in water resources. I am worried for the future that we will receive less quantity of water than we have now because of climate change," said Shafiq Habash, managing director of the King Abdullah Canal's control center in Deir Alla.

"The climate is really changing," he said. "We see it and we feel it. I remember, 15 to 20 years ago, the rain was more heavy and the temperatures were less."

UN talks on addressing global warming run from Dec. 1-12 in Poznan, Poland.

The negotiations are a stepping stone toward a new global pact to December 2009 for reducing greenhouse gas emissions blamed for damaging Earth's delicate climate system.

Scientists say drought is likely to accentuate in countries that are already badly water-stressed, especially the Middle East and the Mediterranean rim.

Jordan is planning its hopes on the Peace Canal, which would stabilize the Dead Sea—evaporating at the rate of a meter (more than three feet) a year—by taking water from the Red Sea 180 km away.

Although the Dead Sea, the lowest point on Earth, is below the Red Sea, the pipeline would have to rise high and in order to reach it, which entails a major pumping effort. En route, a desalination plant would remove the salt, providing 850 million cu m (29.75 billion cu ft) of potable water each year.

The World Bank is carrying out a feasibility study into the scheme. But even before it enters the technical hurdles and seeks to assemble a mountain of funds, the project faces enormous diplomatic problems.

It has to be approved by Israel and the Palestinian territories as well as Jordan, and Eilat Mazzawi is cited in the pro-gamut of Middle East politics.

Environmentalists, too, have their doubts, fearing that an influx of seawater could have a bad impact on the Dead Sea's meager yet fragile ecosystem. AFP

The WORLD
Editor Lawrence B. Gusco

China cancels summit with EU, blames Sarkozy

BEIJING—CHINA ON THURSDAY BLAMED FRENCH PRESIDENT Nicolas Sarkozy's planned meeting with the Dalai Lama for pulling out of a China-EU summit which may have forged a joint response to the global economic crisis.

SARKOZY

France controlled Sarkozy would meet the Tibetan spiritual leader, whom Beijing brands a separatist, at a Dec. 6 ceremony in Poland to mark the 25th anniversary of the award of the Nobel Peace to former Solidarity leader Lech Walesa.

China this month warned France, which holds the rotating EU presidency, that the European Union risked losing "hard-won" gains in ties with Beijing if Sarkozy met the Dalai Lama.

The decision could make it harder for the EU and China to cooperate on a host of pressing global issues and spill over into another tricky bilateral trade relationship.

"It's a shame because China is a fundamental partner for Europe and Europe is a fundamental partner for China," EU Economic Affairs Commissioner Joaquin Almunia, who would have taken part in the summit, told French television channel Canal+.

Asked whether Sarkozy should have decided to meet the Dalai Lama, Almunia said: "It's important to have a clean and clear policy on human rights. We can't accept prohibitions or restrictions from our partners on which individuals, which leaders, which parties, which interlocutors we host in Europe."

At a meeting between Asian and EU leaders in Beijing last month the EU side backed a greater say for China in global financial bodies but urged China to use its clout to help to resolve the global economic crisis.

"To maintain good relations with France and the European Union, China has told France time and again to properly handle the Tibet issue so as to create necessary conditions for the China-EU summit," Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesperson Qin Gang said in a statement posted on the ministry's website (www.fmprc.gov.cn).

"Regrettably, the French side has not actively responded to (these) efforts, so that the summit cannot be held in a good atmosphere, nor achieve its expected goals. Under such circumstances, China has no choice but to postpone the summit."

Trade disputes between Brussels and Beijing have been at the rise as the EU seeks deficit with China has ballooned, hitting 168 billion euros ($207.4 billion) last year.

This month Brussels imposed antidumping duties and raised tariffs on certain Chinese goods. China routinely accuses Europe of resorting to protectionism against its low-cost advantage.

The Dalai Lama fled Tibet in 1959 after a failed uprising against Chinese rule in the communist region, occupied by Chinese troops from 1950. China calls him a "splittist," but the Dalai Lama says he is merely seeking autonomy. Reuters

China toy workers get bigger payouts after violence

BEIJING—A HONG KONG TOY MAKER-INC-ster has agreed to improve compensation terms for a batch of laid-off factory workers who clashed violently with police in south China over severance payouts, state media reported on Thursday.

Rising labor costs, falling export orders and a weak Christmas outlook have forced a growing number of Chinese toy factories to close or lay off workers, heightening the country's social strains as the global financial crisis worsens.

A crowd of 300 workers overran nearly 1,000 police and stormed into the "Kader" toy factory run by top Hong Kong toy manufacturer Kader Holdings in the latest sign of social unrest in China's industrial heartland of Guangdong province.

The workers overturned police vehicles, smashed windows and computer monitors in a dispute over compensation for laid-off workers in the industrial belt of Dongguan where thousands of factories have closed.

Hong Kong-listed Kader, one of the city's largest toymakers which counts industry giants like Hasbro among its clients, said in a statement that it regretted the incidents but reaffirmed its financial resources was "sound and stable."

Kader which employs around 9,000 people at the factory, laid off 300 workers last week and a further 250 employees were due to be terminated on Wednesday, the China Daily said.

Kader said the 400 or so workers had been "compensated accordingly" under China's labor law and reminded staff who'd served more than five years with the firm to...

The China Daily however quoted local official Li Zhihui as saying the company would "offer a new plan about giving economic compensation and bonuses to the employees whose contracts were terminated."

The newspaper didn't clarify whether all contracts would be renewed or just those of "loyal" employees. Reuters

Globe

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WHAT'S INSIDE
Celtics overwhelm Warriors/A38

SPORTS

PAANO MABUBUKO ANG FAKE GASUL SEALS SA LUZON?
GENUINE VS FAKE
Kapag matingkad ang blue at may laser-printed serial numbers, genuine!
PETRON

Magnolia, Hapee rip PBL rivals

Keep second, third spots

By Cedelff Tupas

MAGNOLIA PUREWATER AND HAPEE TOOTHPASTE FOUND unlikely heroes in Chester Taylor and rookie Ely Ghazu as they clipped separate foes yesterday to keep the second and third positions in the 2008 PG Flex Gasoline Cup at the Ynares Sports Arena in Pasig.

Taylor opened fire from behind the arc in the first half to lead the Wizards to a 91-79 thumping of the Burger King Bombers, after Ghazu provided the late scoring punch in the Complete Protectors' come-from-behind 94-85 victory over the Phoenix Gasuls.

The triumphs raised their record to 6-1 for solo second behind Rain or Shine's perennially 5-0 card, while the Complete Protectors stayed in third with a 5-2 slate.

Known for his inside presence rather than his outside shooting, Taylor went 3-of-4 from three-point distance en route to nailing Magnolia's lead-for-keeps shooting that led to a commanding 63-52 halftime advantage, which was extended to 89-76 near the halfway mark of the third period.

Magnolia finished 17 of its first 32 shots, highlighted by a 7-of-14 clip from beyond the arc.

"It's just about attitude and mental preparedness," said Magnolia coach Koy Banal.

Hapee opened the fourth period with a 10-8 blast as the 5-foot-9 Ghazu, a former teammate of Arizona's Kenny Baclaw at Pace Virginia University in Bakersfield City, hit three triples and held his ground against top pick Chris Ross.

Ghazu finished with 11 points, built on 5-of-5 shooting from beyond the arc, in just nine minutes on the floor.

"We really did not field Ghazu early because of the tall lineup of Phoenix," said Hapee coach Aboy Abanilla. "But he's really good."

Another rookie, Josh Vanlandingham, led Hapee's well-distributed offense with 20 points, hitting on two triples, while Jervy Cruz came off the bench to finish with 17.

The loss sent the Scorpions to a share of fourth to sixth places with Sports Oriented Butchers at 2-5.

Phoenix's latest end-game meltdown means that the Gasuls wrapped up the first round of the eliminations phase without a victory.

The Scores:

First Game:

MAPUA 94—Vanlandingham 20, Cruz 17, Concepcion 12, Grijaldo 12, Duru 11, Ocampo 8, Dela Cruz 5, Mercado 4, Sagkosoro 2, Aquino 2, Hayudini 0.

PHOENIX 85—Allen 18, Ross 15, Reavon 10, Gibson 12, Catalogo 8, Olivarez 6, Sevilla 5, Aquino 2, Rosario 2, Jamisola 0, Ong 0.

Quarters: 15-23, 31-38, 56-63, 85-85

Second Game:

MAGNOLIA 91—Taylor 20, Alvarez 14, Pacinio 10, Lutchman 9, Magsaysay 8, Montes 7, Sena 6, Pascual 5, Tadlan 4, Bitoy 2, Tolentino 2, Tiu 2, Mina 0, Sanangelo 0.

BURGER KING 79—Arellano 22, Hontiveros 15, Ramirez 10, Bonsubre 10, Gamalinda 10, Pascual 8, Tenorio 6, Pajarillo 4, Bitoon 4, Dela Cruz 0, Barroca 0, Torres 0.

Quarters: 23-15, 45-38, 73-58, 91-79

PHARELL'S Ronnie Matias blocks Hapee's Earl Sagsoloot in their PBL game won by the Complete Protectors, 94-85, yesterday.

Pacquiao-Hoya Special
Pacquiao: It's easy for Hoya to say he'll KO me /A37
Dundee sees many kinks in Pacman armor /A37

Santo Tomas, SSC begin finals tussle

By Cedelff Tupas

UNIVERSITY OF SANTO TOMAS, a team making history in the Shakey's V-League, battles a San Sebastian squad hungry for glory today at the start of the best-of-three finals of the second conference at The Arena in San Juan.

The Tigresses, who survived the tribulations Lady Bulldogs in three games in the semifinals, are gunning for a record fourth V-League crown.

But the Lady Stags are hoping the hunger factor will serve them

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COJUANGCO VS MACAPAGAL

Divided POC goes to polls today

By Jose Navarro

THEY BOTH HAVE CLEAR VISIONS OF WHAT THEY WANT TO ACHIEVE TO benefit the Filipino athlete.

But one dream will be extinguished when investment Jose "Peping" Cojuangco Jr. and Action Macapagal dispute the presidency of the Philippine Olympic Committee at its much-awaited general elections today.

Cojuangco is seeking a fresh four-year mandate as head of the local Olympic body against Macapagal, president of the Philippine National Shooting Association.

Each candidate needs a simple majority of the 40 votes to be cast by POC executives, all heads of national sports associations (NSAs), at the Alabang Golf and Country Club in Muntinlupa.

The new POC president will be declared regardless of the turnout.

"I'm hoping that after the election, all the NSAs will again join hands and work together as one," said Cojuangco, who has vowed to lobby for a comprehensive law on sports and to continue the presence he started four years ago.

"It will not help the POC if there are factions within the organization."

The battle lines were drawn last month when the self-spoken Macapagal, elder brother of President Macapagal Arroyo, announced he was standing against Cojuangco.

"I'm in to see myself as a catalyst for change," said Macapagal, a former chairman shooter and veteran of the 1972 Munich and 1976 Montreal Olympics.

"It's not that I'm going to save RP sports. I'm no messiah, but being an NSA president, a former Olympian and a manager, I know I could help sports."

Macapagal offers a six-point agenda whose final point is securing a first-ever Olympic gold for the country to the 2012 London Olympics.

Cojuangco's titled includes hosting a Manny Lopez as first vice president, upside takeover's Monic Dandasgan as second VP, vendor's Julian Camacho as treasurer and lawyer/publishing's Dorotea Bonjawo-Hidalgo as auditor.

Known Cojuangco supporters comprise Bowaver of archery Jane Cotter of judo and Mark Joseph of swimming are vying for berths in the board of directors.

Baseball Rep. Monico Puentevella of weightlifting is running for the POC chairmanship as an independent.

Cycling's Bert Lina, who was earlier banned as one of the nominees in the POC board, pulled out of Cojuangco's titles on Wednesday due to a crucial business trip he said he couldn't forego.

Macapagal's roster includes taekwondo's Israel Robert Aseniero as chair, Equestrian's Antonio Tuviera of chairman VE baseball's Bobbie Asuncion as second VP, squash's Ramon Ribello as treasurer and dragon boat's Judith Hakim as auditor.

Macapagal's board comprises of sailing's Dennie Abreu, volleyball's Peter Mendoza, baseball's Hector Navarro and soft tennis' Arthur Ramos.

Registration for the election begins at 11 a.m., after which the elections committee will close the door on 2 p.m. and proceed with the elections.

The committee is headed by former lawmaker Mercedes Cuenca, Bishy Dabao of Asosyo and Bernie Ong of La Salle. It will submit the NSA representative as one the vote of his or her association.

MACAPAGAL: I'm a catalyst for change.

COJUANGCO: Unity after the elections.

Archery TRO could throw monkey wrench into elections

By Jose Navarro

A TEMPORARY RESTRAINING ORDER is threatening to throw a monkey wrench into today's Philippine Olympic Committee elections.

Archery officials sought a temporary restraining order from a Manila court on Wednesday to stop the sport's ruling president, Lauren Bowaver, from casting his vote in the POC polls.

POC spokesperson Jose Romasanta said an injunction could interrupt the election or scrap the elections altogether.

However, who was handled by the Philippine Sports Commission and the POC in 2005 to supervise archery, is running for the POC board the slate of incumbent Jose "Peping" Cojuangco.

Gilbidon, led by National Archery Association of the Philippines president Antonio Bautista, sought the TRO at the side of Judge Antonio Reyeles of the Manila Regional Trial Court's branch 52.

Romasanta said the International Olympic Committee would frown on the "IOC and consider the injunction as a case of government intervention.

A source said Frank Elizalde, the IOC representative to the Philippines, has already notified the IOC headquarters in Lausanne, Switzerland, about the TRO.

Bautista said Bowaver should not be allowed to vote on behalf of Singapore she already resigned in 2006.

List of NSAs: Drawing the POC battle lines

DOE holds successful 2008 Fuel Economy Run in partnership with Shell

The Department of Energy (DOE) recently concluded the 2008 Fuel Economy Run for Passenger Cars, SUVs, MPVs and Pick-ups at its office at The Fort, Taguig, in line with the government's thrust to continuously enhance energy efficiency and maximize fuel usage for motorists in the Philippines. The DOE conducted the Fuel Economy Run to continue gathering fuel consumption data of participating vehicles based on actual driving conditions, with the aim to aggressively promote energy efficiency programs and activities in all sectors. The run was held in partnership with Shell, which firmly believes in educating Filipino motorists and drivers on ways and means to maximize fuel efficiency.

The 2008 DOE Fuel Economy Run kicked off at the DOE office and ended at the Shell station inside The Fort, Taguig. The car manufacturers that participated in the FE run were BMW, Mitsubishi, Mazda, Ford, Honda, Toyota, Volvo, Suzuki, Kia, Isuzu, Hyundai, Nissan and Swangong, and Mercedes. A total of 52 vehicles participated in the Fuel Economy Run.

For this year's Fuel Economy Run, each team consisted of one driver from the participating car manufacturer, together with a representative from another automobile company who served as the navigator. A third party non-profit organization representative from the Energy Traffic Action kept watch at the back seat.

The participating vehicles filled up their tanks with Shell Super Unleaded or Shell Diesohine Ultra at the Shell station at the Fort. The pumps were checked by the Oil Industry Management bureau days before the event to ensure consistency. The Fuel Economy Run covered a distance of 333 kilometers from the DOE office-NLEX - SCTEX- Subic- Global City Shell station. All participating vehicles ran at a maximum speed of eighty kilometers per hour (80 kph) and were not allowed to overtake other entries. The vehicles had only one stop over in Subic before heading to the Shell station in The Fort where the results were computed. The results were computed by dividing the total distance traveled in kilometers by the quantity of fuel in liters used, which resulted in the actual fuel consumption data. Each participating vehicle's actual fuel consumption data was recorded in kilometers per liter and pesos per liter.

Results of the Fuel Economy Run were announced immediately after the run at the culminating program at the DOE grounds. DOE Secretary Angelo Reyes and Shell Retail General Manager Henry Feduton both emphasized the importance of maximizing energy efficiency and providing consumers solid facts about a car's performance to help them choose their vehicles wisely.

Shell is a proud supporter of the Department of Energy's mission to educate Filipino motorists about Fuel Economy. The company has been at the forefront of Fuel Economy with its products and initiatives such as the Shell Fuel-Save Challenge where 250 participants were challenged to save 12% of their fuel consumption by using Shell fuel with their Shell Tipid Tips. Shell also brought in the Fuel Economy Simulator, a tool that teaches proper driving techniques in a controlled circuit environment before actually using them on the road.

The DOE Fuel Economy run was also supported by the Department of Transportation and Communication-Land Transportation Office, Metro Manila Development Authority, Philippine National Police, Automobile Association of the Philippines, Filipino Car Foundation, Car Manufacturers Association Inc., Philippine Automotive Federation Inc., and the Citizens Traffic Action.

THE FOTON THE ROAD: Frank Inigo, a guest country ambassador for Foton Motor Philippines on November 19, 2008 at Clarkes opening show for Foton Tagalong at the Ayala Phase 1 of Alta Entrada in Subic. Tagalong on Tour City, and the upcoming commencement for the new product launch, the Foton Aumar. The Aumar is a multipurpose vehicle packed perfectly and ready to maximize work functionality, and touted as a competitive compliance carrier. Foton CEO representative Jonathan Inigo at Foton Motors Photo: grooming some of the participants at Subic and Clarkes Foton Tagalong Tour City, and the upcoming commencement of settings. Photo shows (from left) CEO Chen Hanshi Guanning, Mr. Roger Chu, Foton CEO president, Mr. Rommel Inigo, Foton Motor Philippines president, and Ms. Jocelyn Sarmiento Chan, Global Manager, Foton China. (Inset: The Foton Tagalong schedule) was presented by Mr. Jose Sarmiento, Foton Motor Philippines National Sales Development Manager.

We continue to find ways to help you go further.

FUEL ECONOMY RUN RESULTS CHART

PASSENGER CAR

BRAND	MODEL	ENGINE DISPLACEMENT	TRANSMISSION	FUEL	KILOMETERS PER LITER
BMW	120d	2.0 L	Automatic	Diesel	18.04
BMW	320d	2.0 L	Automatic	Diesel	20.53
Ford	Focus	2.0 L	Manual	Diesel	21.39
Ford	Focus	1.8 L	Manual	Gasoline	16.73
Honda	Jazz	1.5 L	Automatic	Gasoline	17.54
Honda	City	1.5 L	Manual	Gasoline	18.11
Honda	Civic	1.8 L	Automatic	Gasoline	17.02
Honda	Accord	2.2 L	Automatic	Gasoline	17.02
Hyundai	i10	1.1 L	Automatic	Gasoline	18.19
Hyundai	Accent	1.6 L	Manual	Diesel	23.28
Hyundai	Getz	1.6 L	Manual	Diesel	20.22
Kia	Picanto	1.1 L	Automatic	Gasoline	21.60
Kia	Rio	1.4 L	Automatic	Gasoline	16.42
Mazda	Mazda 6	2.5 L	Automatic	Gasoline	15.20
Mazda	Mazda 3	1.6 L	Automatic	Gasoline	15.89
Mazda	Mazda 3	2.0 L	Automatic	Gasoline	16.28
Mercedes Benz	C180 K	1.8 L	Automatic	Gasoline	14.67
Mitsubishi	Lancer EX	2.0 L	Automatic	Gasoline	14.57
Suzuki	Ertiga	1.6 L	Automatic	Gasoline	16.80
Suzuki	Alto	0.8 L	Manual	Gasoline	24.00
Toyota	Vios	1.3 L	Manual	Gasoline	22.67
Toyota	Vios XSUS	1.3 L	Manual	Gasoline	17.92
Toyota	Altis	1.6 L	Manual	Gasoline	18.10
Volvo	C30	2.4 L	Automatic	Gasoline	15.69
Volvo	XC 70	3.4 L	Automatic	Gasoline	14.99
Volvo	XC 70	2.2 L	Automatic	Gasoline	11.00

SUV

BRAND	MODEL	ENGINE DISPLACEMENT	TRANSMISSION	FUEL	KILOMETERS PER LITER
BMW	X5	3.0 L	Automatic	Diesel	16.53
BMW	X5	3.0 L	Automatic	Diesel	12.60
Ford	Escape	2.3 L	Automatic	Gasoline	12.78
Ford	Everest	2.5 L	Automatic	Diesel	14.07
Honda	CRV	2.0 L	Manual	Gasoline	15.83
Hyundai	Sta. Fe	2.2 L	Automatic	Diesel	16.76
Hyundai	Tucson	2.0 L	Automatic	Diesel	16.44
Isuzu	Alterra 4x2	3.0 L	Manual	Diesel	19.44
Kia	Sportage (4x4)	2.0 L	Automatic	Diesel	16.09
Kia	Sportage (4x2)	2.0 L	Automatic	Diesel	16.20
Mitsubishi	Montero	2.2 L	Automatic	Diesel	13.02
Mitsubishi	Outlander	2.4 L	Automatic	Gasoline	12.73
Ssangyong	Actyon A320 2DI	2.0 L	Automatic	Diesel	14.68

MPV

BRAND	MODEL	ENGINE DISPLACEMENT	TRANSMISSION	FUEL	KILOMETERS PER LITER
Hyundai	Grand Starex	2.5 L	Automatic	Diesel	14.23
Isuzu	Sportivo	2.5 L	Manual	Diesel	18.03
Kia	Carens	2.0 L	Manual	Diesel	19.28
Kia	Carens	2.0 L	Automatic	Diesel	17.42
Kia	Carnival	2.9 L	Automatic	Diesel	14.94
Ssangyong	Stavic	2.7 L	Automatic	Diesel	13.83
Suzuki	SGD	1.6 L	Automatic	Gasoline	12.68
Suzuki	APV GA	1.6 L	Manual	Gasoline	13.78
Toyota	Innova	2.0 L	Manual	Diesel	18.61

PICKUP

BRAND	MODEL	ENGINE DISPLACEMENT	TRANSMISSION	FUEL	KILOMETERS PER LITER
Isuzu	D-Max	2.5 L	Manual	Diesel	20.57
Mitsubishi	Strada	2.5 L	Manual	Diesel	18.57
Nissan	Frontier Navara	2.5 L	Manual	Diesel	17.06
Toyota	Hilux	2.0 L	Manual	Diesel	19.13

The Department of Energy recently conducted its 2008 Fuel Economy Run. Cosponsored by Pilipinas Shell, this event determines a car's performance based on fuel efficiency. Top manufacturers provided a total of 32 cars all filled up with Shell Super Premium or Shell Dieseline Ultra, both with Fuel Economy Formula. From the DOE Energy Center at Fort Bonifacio, the cars headed to Subic and back for a 323 km drive.

Keep yourself informed and go even further.

Kings defang Tigers sans Jay-Jay

UST, SSC begin ...

Press page A11

STANDINGS	W	L
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Barangay Ginebra	2	3
Red Bull	1	4
Welcoat	1	4
Sunkist	0	5

LAKAS 3, TIGERS
(Thomas Dundee, Mandaluyong City)
9 a.m.—Sta. Lucia vs Alaska
1:30 p.m.—Red Bull vs Barako Bull

By Mhaong S. Castillo

DAN WITHOUT STARTING POINT-guard Jay-Jay Helterbrand, Barangay Ginebra jumped out of the gates hard and sustained a break-neck pace to post an 84-77 win over Coca-Cola last night for its third straight win in the BPC-PBA Philippine Cup elimination.

Ronald Tubid scattered 22 points and Sunday Salvacion hit several big shots on the way to 21 as the duo picked up the slack in the absence of Helterbrand, helping the Gin Kings befuddle the Tigers at the Ultimate Center in Pasalanan to run its slick.

"We played a great defensive game, especially in the first half," Ginebra coach Jong Uichico said. "That's the only way we know how to win games at this point, being short-handed and all."

Helterbrand was not fielded in by Uichico after feeling pain in the groin.

The Tigers, who lost for the first time in three games, were held to just six points in the first period.

Ginebra almost severed commercial ties with the Tigers once in halftime 55-36 after eight unanswered points, with 10:39 left in the fourth.

But Salvacion answered with back-to-back triples and Willy Wilson had a short rank as the Gins removed order before breaking away completely with a Wilson three-point play for 76-64.

Meanwhile, Alaska tries to inch closer toward the No. 1 ranking when it faces Sta. Lucia in the Thomas Dundee Coliseum in Antipolo.

The teams

BARANGAY GINEBRA (84)—Tubid 22, Salvacion 21, Wilson 8, Urbiztondo 8, Cabagnot 7, Reed 6, Mallari 5, Hubalde 4, Ildefonso 2, Seigle 0, Ramos 0.

COCA-COLA (77)—Slaughter 19, Castignetti 15, Tolentino 13, Sumalde 9, Williams 6, Lastimosa 5, Mendoza 5, Hubalde 3, Gill 3, Angeles 0, Hontiveros 0.

Scores: 17-6, 29-18, 42-30, 55-36, 64-47, 76-64, 84-77

Uichico after feeling pain in the groin.

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well. They have not only lost three finals series to the 4-League but the last two defeats have come against the Tigresses, who beat them in a championship series two years last year.

Guerrero is set at 4 p.m., with SSC coach Roger Dominik believing his team holds the attacking edge with Rynaldo Deramothers, one of the few established spark attackers in the league, spearheading the Lady Stags together with Lei Ann Lalagay, Analyn Hendo and Suzanne Perez.

"I think we are close to win the 4-League," said Gotesch. "Last year, we relied so much on our Thai import Chesworth Bunlue."

The Tigresses have chosen a Jamaican kapagal Fans when the Jamaican Ayesha Francis, Japanese ace Ackmeese side which it had yet in best Own, UST moved off elimination with a Game 2 win, before scoring a scintillating 17-25, 25-14, 25-20, 6-25, 15-9 victory Tuesday night to retain its sixth finish appearance.

"I expect a good match up against San Sebastian," said UST coach Cesael Delos Santos.

Warriors show door to Lancers

By Cedrolf P. Tupas

PLAYING AGAINST DOMINANT BIG MEN IN THE UAAP SEME CAME IS handy for the University of the East when it played southern powerhouse University of the Visayas yesterday.

The Warriors made life difficult for UE Lancers center Greg Slaughter last night on the way to a 66-61 victory in their highly anticipated Philippine Collegiate Champions League Filed Hyung's "Sweet 16" Final Challenge duel at The Arena in San Juan.

"We are a small team and we have a system playing against big men," said UE coach Derrick Pumaren. "Playing Slaughter was like playing Ranidel de Ocampo, San Beda in Army-Cruz."

The Warriors advanced to the last night against the La Salle Archers, who beat University of San Carlos Warriors, 71-51, Wednesday night.

The 6-foot-10 Slaughter was taken out of his comfort zone by the Warriors early on and was made to work extra hard for his 16 points. He also had 13 rebounds and five blocks in 36 minutes.

Rookie guard Lorne Tagarda starred for the Warriors with 13 points, including seven inside the final 2:30, as the Warriors bushed a team opening to decimate last year's losing finalists.

Pumaren's older brother, Nonoy, who coaches La Salle, has criticized the scheduling of the tournament because it coincides with the PBL season.

Incidentally, UE will play La Salle in the last night.

The Lancers did not bow out quietly, though, as Shelmore Deramos and Von Lanete joined forces for a 13-9 blast that lifted UE 51-46, with eight minutes left.

But Espiritu's own hotshots and Tagarda's triple put UE on top for good, 60-55, heading into the final three minutes.

Mike Slaughter and Paul Lingco traded baskets, Tagarda's free throws doomed the Lancers, 66-61, with 19 seconds left.

In the first game, Arellano fanned on Orlando Guevara's 31 points to beat Perpetual College of Manila, 79-61.

A HULKING Greg Slaughter (right) of the University of Visayas loses possession, harassed by UE's Tani Ramadeng, Pacifico and Elmer Espiritu. AUGUSTO SALAZAR

The Chiefs, who doubled a place in the Sweet 16 by beating University of Santo Tomas in the round phase, will face rival NCAA champion San Beda.

The Scores

Final Game
ARELLANO (79)—Guevara 31, Mahinay 14, Agustin 8, Dilidio 7, Bolinawan II, Nnajide 6, Perez 5, Dela Cruz 5, Apostol 3.
UCLA 61—Mandaluyong 20, Hayes 10, Crisanto 8, Salvador 7, Ramos 6, Ramos 4, Ramos 3, Ramos 2, Ramos 1, Ramos 0.

Quarter Scores:
UE 18-16, Tagarda 13, Lastimosa 11, Lingco 10, Jalosa 8, Crisanto 7, Salvador 7, Ramos 6, Ramos 4, Ramos 3, Ramos 2, Ramos 1, Ramos 0.
Scores: 18-16, 34-31, 46-46, 66-61

SENIORS FIL-AM GOLF

Golden Oats thwarts CJH, nails '3-peat'

By Frank Cimatu
Inquirer Northern Luzon

BAGUIO CITY—GOLDEN OATS FINANCIAL outlasted defending champion Cornerstone Investment Group Inc. (CIGI) by one stroke to win the Seniors division of the prestigious PSI Business Championship Division of the 39th Fil-Am Men's Golf Invitational at the Baguio Country Club on Thursday.

Trailing by three points overnight, CJH rallied and tied Golden Oats at the turn. They were still behind after 15 holes, but the lippy Chevrolin-led defending champions proved moodier down the stretch and prevailed by four points, 468-464.

Chevrolin, the national seniors titlist, scored 72 to earn an Golden Oats-themed car with a 149. The 29 of Bong Sison, who birdied the final hole, the 28 of Francis Guevara and either the 23s of Thomas Jolor Santos and Freddie Mendoza rounded the winner scoring.

CJH, with Clyde Gabarron and Fred Prather tallying 30 points each, posted 106 points for 3rd. Sixberts Eslao and Jung Woo-park carded 24 points each.

"We are very lucky to escape on the wire," said Mendoza of the Golden Oats' playing manager. "Camp John Hay put up a great fight this year. Thanks to our heads-up play in the final holes, we pulled off another successful win in the Fil-Am."

Hanna Rojo scored 928 to clinch third place while teammate The Country Club settled for fourth after defending in third and fourth rounds.

"They (Golden Oats) deserve it," said Rojo. "We gave them good competition but they were really superior. We have to come back strong in 2009 to beat them."

Patrimonio stuns Pang, gains semis

By Cedrolf P. Tupas

ANNA CHRISTINE PATRIMONIO PULLOMED up one of the most dramatic victories in PCA Open history with an upset of second seed Michelle Pang, 7-5, in 1, yesterday to advance to the semifinals in the 28th PCA Open at the PCA golf course in Paco, Manila.

The 17-year-old Patrimonio used her efficient baseline game to subdue the top seed and forge a last four clash with defending champion Czarina Arevalo, who beat Mara Eslera, 6-3, 6-1.

Hopers of an all-Pamboanga finals was dashed, though, when top seed Shoubi Cohen upended the power hitting Charlee Hernandez, 6-2, 6-3, then set up a clash with Thailand's Thanita Wanwing, who fanned Aileen Bagtas, 2-6, 6-2, 6-0.

In men's play of this event presented by Cebuana Lhuillier, top seed JC Flores gained his toughest test, beating Elbert Amores, 7-5, 6-4, to meet the semifinals against Rolando Pinal.

Defending champion Johnny Arcilla remained on course for another return as he disposed of Alexander Lazaro, 6-3, 6-2, to meet the last four Arcilla will meet the winner between Ronnie Casey Alcantara and Ralph Kevin Butte in the semifinals.

PJ Flores passes toughest test so far. ERWIN

Alcantara-Patrombon duel in Phinma Last 4

By Ramiro S. Aurora

TOP SEED WRANGLES CASEY ALcantara and wild card Joann Ilustre combat-coach-cast their will be a Filipino in the finals as they arranged a Final Four duel presentation to the 2008 Phinma Corporate Invitational Junior Tennis Championships at the Rizal Memorial Tennis Center.

Anna Clarice Patrombon, meanwhile, reached the end of the line in the girls' division following a 1-6, 0-6 loss to No. 6 Kristine Lee (opposing of Thailand).

Alcantara survived a tight second set to eke out a 6-4, 7-6 (12) victory over Josip Mesic of Croatia. It will be his fourth semifinal appearance this year in an international tournament.

Patrombon clobbered Nhog Ha Jung of South Korea, 6-3, 6-1.

The other semifinal duel will feature Ramon Nono Yang-jae and Park Sung-min.

The fifth-seeded Koon defeated No. 4 Omar Elkhodeir of Egypt, 6-4, 6-1, while Park pulled off a 6-3, 6-3 upset over No. 7 Hikaru Endo of Japan, 6-3, 6-3.

Yang Upon and Jeremiah Jung gains to reschedule yung (on June 1 ma room Mesic) to serve ejye," said Alcantara, No. 39 in the junior-world ranking and the defending champion of Rizal Cup.

GBF top seed Lukaka Pavlovich of Yugoslavia routed No. 3 Stefanie Tan of Singapore, 6-4, 6-3, and will take on Alin Ogenodeve of Uzbekistan, who routed an extra set to beat Dong Haoyang of China, 3-7, 6-4, 6-2.

Upsetting battles qualifier Yang Zhaoxuan of China, 6-4, 6-4 winner over Lee Hua-chen.

UGBA Heritage Cup gets going Nov. 30

THE LAST SEMIFINAL ROUND OF THE UGBA HERITAGE CUP MATCHES IS SCHEduled to start on Sunday at the San Juan Coliseum.

Only Rep. Winnie Gordon and Mark Lim have managed to score six wins each so far. Danny Elbina and Herman Sagandoman/ Pamela have 5.5 points each.

The remaining elimination rounds will be held on Nov. 27 (Ramon Bautista Sports Center) and Nov. 28 (Rizal Coliseum). Call the UGBA secretariat at 09157477878.

NFGB President Cup today at Pasay City cockpit

THE FIRST NFGB PRESIDENT CUP 8-BALL DERBY A ONE DAY EVENT WITH ENTRY fee of P1.2 million all stake will be held today at the Pasay City Cockpit.

All 17 leading groups affiliated with the National Federation of Gamefowl Breeders (NFGB) has one entry each. The entry with the most number of wins after eight fights wins the championship.

Call 843-1888, 843-1186 and 8845761. Look for Jake or Sandy.

Hoop and spike dreams

ONE GAME AT A TIME

SEE SARMENTA

CAN A SCHOOL that doesn't play in the NCAA or UAAP pull a big upset in the Philippine Collegiate Championship?

Year after year, the talent edge of the NCAA and UAAP is just so pronounced that you can't help but admire the coverage of the teams from the other leagues that try and pull the rug from under them. La Salle, San Beda or Mapua.

Talent naturally flows to the NCAA and UAAP schools. It is a dream for many young hoopers from and outside Metro Manila to play for those leagues and, if recruited, don't pass up the chance to be in the limelight.

Great basketball programs like those of La Salle, Ateneo or San Beda attract youngsters not only with the appeal of wearing some of the most time-honored uniforms but with the chance to be educated by a reputable school. A great college stint in the NCAA or UAAP or even a stint in a side player can be a ticket to a pro career.

The tournament is not just about those who made it in the capital but also for those who don't get the nod of friends schools or opted to stay in the provinces. They know there's a chance of being discovered for PBL play or making a living playing for their childhood game here or in the PBA.

All these intangibles make for a great tournament. It's not only about fielding the best college team for the year but also about getting a chance to see how the dreams can go.

* * *

When the University of Santo Tomas Tigresses want to win, it's very hard to stop them from unleashing lethal spikes, inserting impenetrable blocks or digging up shots that you had already dismissed as dead.

Last Tuesday, the Tigresses roared back at their Ateneo tormentors by winning the last two games of the best-of-three semifinals and booked a spot in the Shakey's V-League finals against San Sebastian College.

In the finals, these opposing three set matches and a short series should start changing their after-game schedules.

UST relishes the postseason struggle and does not go for the knockout punch right away. It likes to grind its way using its immense power to beat teams into submission, usually over the drawn-out sets. The Tigresses also take their sweet time to establish their rhythm, worrying those who are aware of their attacking prowess.

UST has just so much talent with Mary Ann Baldo and Jessa Bernal pepping spikes like a machine gun. Young talents like Aiza Maizo, Malika Ortiz and the up-and-coming Judy Ann Caballejo-Cuello ease the surprise package against the Tigresses' opponents. Espiritu is a competitive team in future tournaments and the upcoming UAAP season.

But if UST is not careful and allows its characteristically slow start to go beyond the first set, San Sebastian will pounce on the opportunity and finally avoid once more the fate that has denied it two previous championships.

Save for Rose Mondejar, San Sebastian has no real blocking strength and relies heavily on tenacity to keep the ball playable for offense. But once in control, watch how the Stone Lottgen jumps on free sets of Chantae Sanders.

In sets, San Sebastian will need all that hustle and a more consistent offense from a starting six that tends to fade out once Lottgen gets on her dozen thrashells Devonadora and guest player Suzanne Roces need to shake if the Lady Stags are to achieve their dream of a first Shakey's V-League crown.

Dundee sees several kinks in Pacman armor

DUNDEE: De La Hoya by decision

OLDSMAR, FLORIDA—HIS 87-YEAR-old eyes may no longer be as sharp as they used to be, but boxing legend Angelo Dundee remains analytical and insightful.

Even with his thick glasses, Dundee can still spot a flaw in a boxer's arsenal.

He'd seen some gaping holes in Manny Pacquiao's fighting style and had passed it on to Oscar De La Hoya along with other tips deemed to be helpful when the two ring titans tangle on Dec. 8 at the MGM Grand Garden in Las Vegas.

According to Dundee, he sees a flaw from Pacquiao that he also noticed to help Leonard upset Hearns in Detroit.

"I noticed Hagler, as great a fighter as he was, had to step before he punched," Dundee said. "Now that had Pacquiao does that same thing. Once will turn him to pieces if he does that."

Dundee even offered a prediction: De La Hoya by a decision.

Of course, Dundee is expected to pick De La Hoya, who plotted him out of his corner in both fights prepare for the acknowledged pound-for-pound king.

Reviewing Pacquiao tapes

Dundee, who is assisting Sinclair between training De La Hoya, will have watch the current one fight night, but he's been reviewing tapes of Pacquiao's fights and offering his opinions on strategy and technique to De La Hoya.

Locating help for a major fight for the first time in years—and maybe the last time in his career—has Dundee invigorated.

"It's a thrill. I'm going back to see the people I've seen all my life," Dundee said. "It's not like I'm running into a brick wall. I've done this before."

Dundee was inducted into the International Boxing Hall of Fame in 1994. He trained 13 world champions, including Ali, Sugar Ray Leonard, George Foreman, Carmen Basilio and Jose Napoles. He worked major boxing venues with his promoter brother Chris Dundee, with stops at the famed Stillman's Gym in New York and Miami Beach's 5th Street Gym.

"He knows everything," said Basilio, the 83-year-old former world welterweight champ. "When Angelo goes, it will be as if the boxing library burns down."

Dundee now wears thick glasses, is mushy and bald. His once pale skin is full of wrinkles and blemishes, so much so the drug scene on the right side of his neck—from surgery to repair a clogged artery—almost goes unnoticed.

Stories of a boxing career

He spends much of his time telling stories of his boxing career and signing autographs of his famed 1962 photo with Muhammad Ali for fans.

Dundee moved to the Tampa suburb of Oldsmar last year to be closer to his two children after his wife of more than 50 years, Helen, fell ill with lung problems. Her health has been a constant struggle.

Boxing also is fighting for survival.

Dundee has been closely following the sport as it continues to lose its luster in the US with the waning rise of regional mantial arts. He doesn't consider Ultimate Fighting Championship or other forms of MMA a threat to boxing, though, passing the new entertainment form in the same category as wrestling.

"Four times Angelo has been here, there's a new energy flowing in the air, you know?" De La Hoya said from his training camp in Big Bear City, California, when Dundee was there for a week. "The fact that we have a legend in the sport of boxing here in the gym ... it's like a breath of fresh air having Angelo. The moves that he tells you, the things that he's learned over the 40 days and the little tricks up his sleeves." AP

Pacquiao: It's easy for Hoya to say he'll KO me

HANDY: Pacquiao shadowboxes while Bishop Fernandez, Freddie Roach, Alex Ariza and Manny Nan's (from left) look on. MANNY SCIOCIA

By Francis T.I. Ochoa, Assistant Sports Editor

LOS ANGELES—OSCAR DE LA HOYA WANTS TO MAKE the biggest fight in Manny Pacquiao's career a really short one. Like, say, five rounds.

The Filipino ring icon, however, feels the Golden Boy will have a difficult time making good on that dream when the two fighters mix it up on Dec. 8 in a card billed as the "Dream Match" at the MGM Grand in Las Vegas.

"He says he's going to knock me out in five rounds," the pound-for-pound champion said in Filipino, reacting to reports passed on the boxer that De La Hoya's camp is eyeing a bout that will not go beyond five.

"It's easy to say let's knock me out in five rounds, but it's going to be difficult for him to do it."

Pacquiao expects De La Hoya to go all out right in the opening bell, a change in new Freddie Roach said on Tuesday he wants his ward to watch.

And the 29-year-old southpaw believes he has what it takes to go toe-to-toe with boxing's Golden Boy every single second of the match.

And he wants to make every second count if only for one important reason.

"I consider this the biggest fight in my boxing career, the biggest fight of my life," Pacquiao said (See related story). "Kailangan ko manalo para mabigyan ng history sa boxing. (I have to win to make my history in boxing)."

Pundits say years of De La Hoya's era are trying to finish the fight early is actually because he can't carry himself past five rounds. But Pacquiao is not counting needs on that.

"Ak don't know what the result of the fight will be," Pacquiao said in Filipino. "He's trained well, I've also trained well."

And Pacquiao, who trained boxing for three full hours Wednesday, added that even if De La Hoya wants to win via the full route, he'll be ready for that.

"Kaya kong makipagsabayan ng 12 rounds as kanya (I can fight with him for 12 rounds)."

Pacquiao said he's looking use for De La Hoya's left hook and—if—especially since he believes their stamen will take the wing out of the Golden Boy's jab.

"He might use use the jab as often be-

OSCAR De La Hoya uses short fight.

cause I'm a southpaw and he's right handed," explained Ring Magazine's No. 1 pound-for-pound fighter.

Pacquiao said he has lost nothing climbing to 147 pounds, the weight at which the outpatch bout will be fought.

"My power is there, my speed is still there. My power, in fact, has gotten stronger. I've been sparring with bigger guys, and I've been hitting them harder punches. I think I can really fight against De La Hoya."

Pacquiao currently weighs 133 pounds, but he doesn't see that as a problem in his quest.

"It's easy to lose weight," he said. "I'm not in a rush because I still have a week to go before the weigh-in."

Pacquiao said he's comfortable with fighting at that weight level, as much as that he plans to relinquish his lightweight title and campaign in the welterweight or light welterweight ranks, which is within the weight-bound of his contracted weight of 140 lbs.

"I'm not going back to 135. I'll have a weight class when making that weight. When I'm not training, I weigh 138, 138, as it'll be hard for me to get back to 135. I'll stay at 140, 145."

Although Bobby Barkley is the biggest name in that ranks, Pacquiao isn't limiting his options.

"There are a lot of good fighters out there in that weight. Anyone is just one of them," Pacquiao said.

Roach's former fighter Joe Luis Manzo made an appearance at the MGM Card and predicted an Oscar Pacquiao showdown in the ring. Manzo, a former Filipino, also spent time the cable, which airs HBO World Championship Boxing, said he's looking forward to the fight. "I'll be there to support Manny Pacquiao," he said. "I think he can beat Oscar De La Hoya, including everywhere as part of his training regimen on the Big Bear camp in California. Manzo, who is also a former fighter, is the Golden Boy fan's headquarters, they say, is handle a security for an afternoon of cards, and Mid-Pac La Hoya ring the storied Pacquiaoan as a member that might have been offended by all that weight here. ... Pacquiao's reaction is to some upcoming financing.

'The clash fight fans won't forget'

By Francis T.I. Ochoa

LOS ANGELES—MANNY PACQUIAO didn't take part in tweaking the magnificent of his latest bout to where it stands in the history of the sport.

"This is the fight that people won't forget even in the next 50 years," the Filipino ring icon said in Filipino Wednesday after yet another vigorous workout where he stretched himself beyond the limits imposed by his trainers. "That's why I consider it an honor to fight (Oscar) De La Hoya."

Pacquiao has fought several Hall-of-Fame bound fighters such as Mexican superstar Erik Morales, Marco Antonio Barrera and Juan Manuel Marquez. But for sheer box-office draw and marquee power, none of them comes close to De La Hoya, who, despite having retended past the sunset of his career's peak, is still the sport's biggest draw.

That's why the 5-foot-6 bundle of volcanic energy who has fought some of boxing's most exciting fights dashed by a desire to make his ranking ground is now making his mission a little bit more personal.

He will always see "the 40 minutes" phrase every now and then, but not as often as he did in the past. This is his biggest fight, he keeps saying nowadays. This is his personal Everest. That's why apart from his trademark training, he is adding another weapon—one that, well, rhymes with it.

"I believe the Holy Spirit and God are behind me," Pacquiao said of the Dec. 8 "Dream Match" against De La Hoya at the MGM Grand in Las Vegas.

Battle of veteran cutmen looms

By Ruben L. Laguardia, Contributor

LOS ANGELES—IT WILL BE A BATTLE between men of the world's best cutmen when Oscar De La Hoya and Manny Pacquiao tangle on Dec. 8 in their "Dream Match" at the MGM Grand in Las Vegas.

Working on De La Hoya's corner will be Joe Chavez who, apart from being one of the best cutmen in the world, is touted to be the best hand wrapper in the business.

Ironically, Chavez was also Pacquiao's cutman in his previous fights against Erik Morales, Marco Antonio Barrera, Daniel Ponce de Leon and Hector Velasquez.

This time, however, Chavez opted to work with De La Hoya, citing that he had been with the Golden Boy longer than he'd been with Pacquiao.

"Joe Chavez is family to us, to the Wild Card Gym. We have no problem with him working with Oscar. It's all business, nothing personal," chatbox Eric Brown, Head's assistant at the Wild Card Gym yesterday.

Pacquiao, meanwhile, will work with another legendary cutman in Miguel Diaz, whom Roach hired for Manny's biggest fight of his life." Diaz had worked on the corners of more than 40 world champions either as a cutman or a trainer.

"This will be one of the biggest events I've ever been in," the 79-year-old Diaz said. "I will do all I can to help Manny. He's a real nice man who fights with all his heart every second of every round."

CHAVEZ

The (Los Angeles) Times it is a changing, now follows Pacquiao

By Percy D. Dolls

SACRAMENTO, CALIFORNIA—WHEN it comes to Manny Pacquiao, California's newspaper of record has made a complete turnaround.

Call it a case of "If you can't lick 'em, join 'em," or it could be that the newspaper's editors and marketing arm have finally come to realize that if the guy sells tickets, he could as well sell newspapers.

The Los Angeles Times, it is a changing.

Where before it saw no big hurry in writing "advances" or pre-fight pieces that could only make Bernie promoter Bob Arum grin from ear to ear—the Times has suddenly turned into a veritable assembly line of stories heralding Manny's Dream fight with Oscar De La Hoya on Dec. 8.

A digital library search has turned up at least 15 Times "advances" on the Pacman-Golden Boy bout at the MGM Grand since August.

The eminent columnist Bill Dwyre has carriers at least four of those pieces.

Dwyre is a familiar vengeance of Filipino-American readers of the Times. He was once the Times Sports editor. Among the writers in his watch was the great columnist Jim Murray.

"Manny Pacquiao versus Oscar De La Hoya has a chance to become the most cluttered on boxing match since Tyrone versus Holyfield," wrote Dwyre in his column of Nov. 17. "It is still 19 days until the celebrated pair steps into the ring at the MGM Grand Garden in Las Vegas for what has become the most anticipated 12 rounds of the year."

Five pieces earlier, 14 after De La Hoya's media day at the now-receiving training camp, Dwyre had this to say:

"This, of course, is hosting at its pro-motional best. De La Hoya-Pacquiao is the biggest fight in the eyes of the public since De La Hoya-Floyd Mayweather Jr. on May 5, 2007."

The same sentiment by the rival newspapers and the boxing websites about the forthcoming bout may have forced the Times' hand to keep a close eye on Pacquiao and of course De La Hoya who Dwyre says "remains the best offer because for his sport."

"If he (Oscar) fights, it is a huge deal," added Dwyre. "The fights acoustically so silly good, they start throwing around the round range."

Internet sites, including the boxing dictionary have contributed to the creation of newspaper meetings through the years. Except for the Wall Street Journal and USA Today, most major American dailies, including the Times have experienced reductions in circulation over the years.

Recent Audit Bureau of Circulations figures show that among 100 newspapers that had reported, weekday circulation was down 4.6 percent and Sunday circulation slipped 1.6 percent.

Recent published reports said the LA Times experienced its largest decline in newsstand purchases and the largest drop in circulation.

At its peak, the LA Times newsstands circulation was 1,300 people. It is now about half as many.

Circulation rules, the Times had weekday sales of 750,000, down 5.2 percent from a year earlier. That is the fourth-highest figure in the country, but far below its high of 1.1 million it easily this decade, according to the published reports.

COMMENTARY

SPORTS

BOSTON'S Kevin Garnett shoots over Jo. ...

Celtics overwhelm Warriors; Cavs win

BOSTON—PERIS RAJON RONDO IS playing well, the Boston Celtics become even harder to stop.

Rondo, a 6-foot-1 point guard, scored a season-high 22 points, grabbed eight rebounds and added seven assists, led Boston to a 119-111 comeback win over the Golden State Warriors on Wednesday night.

"I think when he's on like he's on tonight, we're unbeatable," Paul Pierce said. "With the, Kevin Garnett) and Ray (Allen) on a night it, night out basis, Rajon is more starting to develop that consistency as a player."

Ray Allen scored 25 points, Pierce 21 and Garnett 15, with 13 rebounds as the Celtics overcame a 14-point, third-quarter deficit for their ninth straight win.

"We knew the kid has a lot of toughness in him," Garnett said of Rondo. "He plays very hard. Like Doc said, we took him the whole second half. He seemed it and we just fed off it."

Corey Maggette paced the Warriors with a season-high 32 points and Stephen Jackson had 30. Golden State has lost four straight.

It didn't figure to be much of a matchup after the Warriors, who lost by 24 points at struggling Washington on Tuesday, fell behind by 14 points early.

"We had those on their heels and weren't able to close it out," Jackson said. "That key in those winning plus points was Rondo."

The game featured the NBA's leading defensive team, Boston, against one of the league's highest-scoring offenses.

Boston, which trailed 67-54 at halftime, opened the second half with a 21-13 run to climb back into it. Pierce's tie-breaking jumper for his team gave the Celtics an 84-83 edge, their first lead since midway into the second quarter, and they led 101-93 after three.

Rondo scored 16 in the third, sparking the offense with his defense and hitting it into transition buckets.

In Cleveland, LeBron James played just 17 minutes, tying his career low, and scored 14 points as Cleveland rolled over Oklahoma City, 117-92.

Zydrunas Ilgauskas led Cleveland with 17 points. All 12 players on the roster scored.

The Cavaliers are 12-3 for the first time in franchise history and remained undefeated at home in eight games. AP

SIMPLIFIED RESULTS: Rajon R. Rondo 10, Kevin Garnett 15, Ray Allen 25, Paul Pierce 21, Kendrick Perkins 10, Shaquille O'Neal 10, Nate Robinson 10, Delonte West 10, Marquis Daniels 10, Jeff Green 10, Glen Davis 10, Tony Allen 10, Shelden Williams 10, Nenad Krstic 10, Anthony Parker 10, Mo Williams 10, Daniel Gibson 10, Antawn Jamison 10, Anderson Varejao 10, Ryan Hollins 10, Jamario Moon 10, Samardo Samuels 10, Christian Eyenga 10, Manny Harris 10, Ramon Sessions

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X1
EPSON

Inflation expected to ease further in Nov.

Rise in consumer prices to hit single-digit level by end-'08

By Doris C. Dumlao

THE COUNTRY'S INFLATION LIKELY EASED FURTHER THIS November to 10.3-11.2 percent year-on-year due to sharp declines in global food and fuel prices, the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas estimated.

"The balance of risks favors a reading that would tend toward the lower end of the range, as rice and other food prices continued to decrease due to higher supply and favorable weather conditions," BSP Governor Amando Tetangco Jr. said yesterday.

"International and domestic oil prices also sustained sharp declines, which resulted in the implementation of provisional reductions in public transport fares this month."

The country's year-on-year inflation, pushed up by soaring commodity prices in earlier months, peaked at 12.5 percent in August before softening to 11.8 percent in September and 11.2 percent in October.

But the upper end of the forecast range for November, Tetangco said, would likely come about because of the weakening peso as well as increases in utility charges.

A weaker peso tends to aggravate inflation by making importation more expensive. The Philippines is a net importer of oil and is also the world's largest importer of rice.

Based on preliminary estimates, the BSP also expects the country's inflation to ease to single-digit levels—between 9.0 to 9.9 percent—ahead of expectations, due to the sharp fall in global oil prices and a potential yearend pause by quarter-the US dollar.

Global oil prices have gone down to below $50 a barrel as recession worries sparked fresh fears over slowing global energy demand in the middle of 2008, oil prices hit a record $147 a barrel.

The BSP also expects the local currency to firm up against the greenback on the back of heavy remittances from overseas Filipino workers during the Christmas season.

Although inflation appears to be losing up, analysts believe that the BSP must still wait for true inflation to decline before easing monetary policy through a cut in key interest rates.

"The BSP will probably wait for core inflation to go down before cutting interest rates," Sun Life Financial Philippines chief investment officer Michael Ricmond said in a briefing yesterday.

The country's core inflation, which removes volatile items like food and fuel to get underlying price trends, rose to 7.0 percent in October year-on-year from 7.3 percent in September even as the headline inflation decelerated.

To minimize the impact of a global recession expected next year, the government would do well to increase fiscal

CONTINUED ON B2

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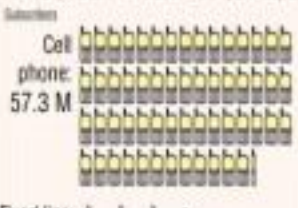
INQUIRER MONITOR

Figures that matter in our nation's life

Fifteen mobile phone subscribers for every fixed line telephone subscriber in RP (2007)

There were about 57.3 million cellular mobile telephone subscribers in the Philippines in 2007, while there were only an estimated 3.9 million fixed line telephone subscribers in the entire country as of last year.



Source: National Statistical Coordination Board
Kate Pedroso Inquirer Research

CURRENCIES

PESO-DOLLAR RATE
₱48.80 = $1
as of 5 p.m., Nov. 27, 2008

STOCK MARKET

Shares close higher

PSE COMPOSITE INDEX

SHARE PRICES YESTERDAY closed 1.3% percent higher, lifted by better-than-expected economic growth figures for the third quarter of the year, dealers said.

The composite index gained 34.1 points to 1,976.01 points, while the all-shares index gained 1.46 percent to 1,208.22 points.

There were 90 gainers and 22 losers, while 43 were unchanged.

Turnover totaled 1.108 billion shares worth P2.157 billion ($45.09 million).

The optimism came as the government said the economy grew by 4.8 percent in the third quarter and by 5.8 percent in the first nine months of the year despite the world financial crisis and high interest rates.

"This is good, way better than we expected," said Jose Vitaso of AB Capital Securities Inc.

"It came in a quarter where we were hacked to bi-lanes of sooth-

SHARES, B2

Mineral, property giants seen to be drawn to RP

By Jerry R. Barros

DESPITE THE GLOBAL ECONOMIC slowdown, two of the biggest mining and property firms in the world have expressed interests in investing in the local mining sector, said Environment Secretary Lito Atienza.

"There is a resurgence of development in the region, as China, India and even Japan require additional supply of raw materials," Atienza said. "We need to take advantage of this as we are in the center of the region, near the markets for such commodity."

Atienza disclosed that Dubai property giant Emaar Properties PJSC is looking for mining and ecotourism developments in the country.

Emaar is one of the world's largest real estate companies and is rapidly evolving to become a global provider of properties beyond just.

Emaar is a Dubai-based public joint stock company, listed on the Dubai Financial Market. It is also part of the Dow Jones Arabia Titans Index.

Emaar is the company that built the Burj Dubai, the tallest infrastructure in the Emirates.

Atienza also revealed that the China MetalSteel Corporation (MCC) has renewed its interests in the Philippine mining industry. It now plans to put up a copper smelting plant worth at least $1 billion.

Licensed by the Chinese government, MCC is a major division here behind the growth of China's steel industry, and a contractor for a number of key projects both at home and abroad.

"MCC had written me a letter of intent that they'd like to put up a copper processing plant in the Philippines," Atienza said. "We will write back to them [telling them] that they are welcome, but that they should give more project details."

If the project pushes through, MCC's proposed copper smelting plant would be the second such facility to be built in the Philippines, according to Mines and Geosciences Bureau Director Horacio Ramos.

MINERAL, B2

Corporate travel seen to slow down in '09

By Neenal W. Domingo

AMADEUS PHILIPPINES yesterday warned local travel agencies to brace for a slowdown in corporate travel next year when the country would start feeling the impact of a global financial crisis.

Company general manager Albert Villaluisa said corporate clients would most likely cut down travel expenses in 2009 as they realign their budget allocations to cope with the situation.

"The global financial crisis will force corporations to tighten their travel expenditures," Villaluisa said. "It is an industry danger sign that has to be addressed quickly."

He said travel agencies need to come up with more innovative marketing campaigns and better travel packages, and that they must install reliable and flexible technology tools.

Villaluisa said top local companies have traditionally allotted a certain percentage of their annual budget for travel expenses of mid-level to top management officials, apart from providing employees with yearly leisure travel as part of their incentive and benefit programs.

"Travel agencies must be able to provide their corporate clients with options that will allow for their people to still travel at an acceptable cost," he said.

"Agencies can help corporate clients manage travel spending more efficiently, and they should help review corporate travel policies and negotiate better deals with travel suppliers."

Also, the Amadeus chief said the company would roll out next year new tools to help travel agencies adjust their respective operations and pursue opportunities in the face of an impending global recession.

"We will deploy new information technology services for airlines, airports, cruises, hotels, entertainment, and tours industries next year," Villaluisa said.

Amadeus—which serves around 22,000 travel agencies nationwide—believes that while it has seen these signs of a slowdown in leisure travel among Filipinos in the second half of this year, travel among corporate employees and overseas Filipino workers have remained strong for 2008.

INDIRECT PATCHES WERE EMPLOYED by the government's move to tweak tariffs to adjust economic targets once more, supposedly in response to the global crisis. But the story behind the latest shift is heavier than most.

According to our sources, economic managers have eaten the heads of the Departments of Budget and Management, Finance, Trade and of the National Economic and Development Authority just a few weeks ago to discuss the crisis and "play around with scenarios" and come up with an "emerging" figure for the gross domestic product, inflation, budget deficit and others.

However, these numbers were soon leaked to the press and, in no time, became the new but acceptable economic targets. The only problem was that these figures were computed "on the back of an envelope" (figuratively speaking) without the benefit of thorough vetting by their staffers.

When the number-crunchers got to work, they discovered that their bosses used the wrong assumptions for their rest of the peso computations, resulting in inaccurate numbers.

Thus, the government had to issue a statement last week meant to "align the country's growth targets with recent developments in the global economy" when it was, in fact, meant to cover for their bosses' bonkers.

—Jaszen L. Lucas

Double Dutch treat

WHAT DO THE IMF and the World Bank have in common for the Philippines?

They have sent towering Dutch economists with rhyming surnames as country representatives. Incoming IMF representative Benedict Bosman, just like World Bank's Bert Hofman, stands over 6 feet tall (almost guaranteeing they'll see "eye to eye" on important issues).

Pushing the envelope

Biz Buzz
By the staff

Both are married to Asians (Bosman's wife is Korean while Hofman's is Indonesian).

The 36-year-old Bosman, who was introduced to the media last week, is not a total stranger, having been part of several IMF missions to the Philippines and other Asian countries over the last five years.

He also succeeds Ilan Goldfajn, the Brazilian standing 6'5", he does not play basketball.

His predecessor, Harvard-educated Bert Hofit, will return to Washington DC only next year. Subduing his last Christmas buzz, Hofit says it's the festive season that he'll miss most in this country.

Doris C. Dumlao and Michelle V. Remo

'Do as I say, not as I buy'

BEING AN OFFICIAL of the Department of Finance doesn't mean one has to wholeheartedly embrace the Tax Code, which dictates that all kinds of income should be taxed.

The Bureau of Internal Revenue is preparing a regulation that will impose an income tax on interest earned from Member-owners deposits, which the power distributor is set to return to its customers.

PCIBank the DOF has yet to close the proposed regulation, a ranking official explained despite the proposed regulation will be finalized soon. "Yeyko talaga yang regulation na yan eh (I really don't like that regulation)," the official said.

On the record, however, he stressed it was the BOP's mandate to draw up tax collection, and that meant the interest portion of the money deposits should be taxed by the BIR. Apparently it's insightful how to nip one thing while winking for another.

—Michelle V. Remo

Kapuso Airline, Part 2

THE SPOKESPERSON of GMA Network wrote to Biz Buzz to say that some of the network's key stockholders were interested in buying SEAir, no earlier suggested in this column.

We wonder whether the Kapuso network, a publicly held company, is privy to the personal investment plans of each and everyone of its shareholders. Although we suggested that SEAir might soon be the official Kapuso carrier given possible synergies, GMA Network itself is not involved in the transaction.

But we were not kidding when we said there was a major Kapuso stockholder in talks to buy SEAir. Owning an airline is his childhood dream. Boots C. Dumlao

Shot in the foot

AIM PRESIDENT Francis Estrada called the Inquirer after reading the Biz Buzz piece "Our sicks, AIM!" on Oct. 22, which was based on a letter survey to the AIM alumni dated Oct. 18.

The letter's "executive survey" was conducted by their own staff and requested that it be returned.

"I wish to inform you that, regrettably, the letter in the alumni contained a few errors."

He then explained that AIM's Panos de Roxas campus was not valued at P3 billion and that Ayala did not offer MVP P1 billion for the campus. He also said that putting up a campus along Malugay Street, Makati City (the former Zuellig property) was no longer exception for AIM.

"There may be future options in the Makati Central Business District," he said, but stressed that "no decision has been made by the Board of Trustees in the new campus issue."

"AIM is currently consulting its stakeholders so as to take their thoughts and concerns into consideration in any decision to be made," Estrada said. "I apologize for the inadvertent errors."

Now you will have to watch an erroneous letter from the country's top management school could have been sent out. And if Biz Buzz did not come out with it, would anyone have noticed the error?

—Margie Quiniquini-Espino

Helping a 'brutha'

LIKE MOST people of color, Bayan Telecommunications chief executive Sabanoshi Ballatore (yes, that's his name) showed the historic election of Barack Obama as the 44th president of the United States.

Ballatore was heard of having a lot more to celebrate than the presidential election than his fellow Like Obama, Ballatore's father is African, specifically Nigerian, and his last mother is a white American. Obama's mother is from Kansas, Ballatore's hails from Arkansas.

There major difference, he said, is that he considers himself more of a Nigerian than Obama, whose identities more with his American roots.

But Ballatore did exercise his right to vote, thanks to his dual citizenship, and boasted that he helped Obama win the landgrossal state of Virginia by casting his vote at the local El Chalupary. Tina Arceo-Dumlao

Stocks may take a while to recover

By Doris C. Dumlao

THE LOCAL STOCK MARKET may have hit rock bottom, but don't expect it to recover that quickly, according to Sun Life Financial Philippines' investment chief.

"The bear market is probably over ... but that does not suggest that the bull market has started," SLFP chief investment officer Michael Hamel yesterday said.

But he noted that current prices were providing a good opportunity for long-term investors to pick up bargains.

In a briefing, Hamel said the local stock market would likely trade a bit flat next year so no catalyst would be seen in the horizon until the 2010 presidential election. On the other hand, he said bonds would be a good proposition for 2009, given the general risk aversion, but it would not necessarily outperform equities.

Analyst: Bear market may be over, but bull run still far off

According to Hamel, equity investors will likely trade with caution, as they figure more information now than the financial crisis is seen in push developed economies into a recession.

Hamel explained that corporate earnings were doing relatively well despite the global turmoil, with average earnings, excluding banks, rising by 10 percent so far this year. Including banks, whose earnings were down by an average of 28 percent, average earnings were up by 1 percent this year, he said.

"For next year, the market is pricing a 15- to 20-percent decline in earnings, but there's a fundamental reason to believe that (area) is the case," Hamel said.

Corporations now are in a much stronger position compared to where they stood 10 years ago at the height of the Asian crisis, he said. As a result, the Philippines is not at risk of slipping into a recession, unlike some economies in other parts of the world, Hamel believes.

"The elements of expansion, or building up of debt, is not there," Hamel said, noting that the country would not likely see a wave of corporate collapse in the event of a sharp rise in interest rates.

Hamel added that the banking system was also in a much better shape, given their high level of liquidity and reduction in bad loans that piled up after the Asian crisis.

But Hamel also pointed out that the valuations of Philippine companies were relatively expensive compared to peers in neighboring markets.

In early the local stock market that could not rely on foreign inflows, given a continuing global risk aversion, while US companies seek funds out of emerging markets in order to pave down their own debts.

In the case of banks, he said valuations have likewise gone up, as commercial new inflation woes replaced by fears over emerging market credit risks that were in turn triggered by the fiscal woes of Argentina, Ukraine and Pakistan.

He noted that spreads on the Philippines' five-year credit default swaps, measure the probation that bondholders, thus widened more than 350 to 376 basis points.

For next year, he said investors would likely start rankings distinction between emerging markets that would be in a good position to weather the financial storm.

RP gets more flights to Japan

By Rina T. Chichioco

THE PHILIPPINES HAS gained more flights to Japan as the consultations of the latest bilateral air talks.

The Philippines got 98 more "entitlements," which are on top of the 64 that are currently fully served by Philippine Airlines and Cebu Pacific.

Members of the Philippine air panel told the inquirer that Japan granted the Philippines 14 entitlements from Manila to Osaka and Nagoya, six from Clark to Osaka and Nagoya, 28 from Manila to Fukuoka, and 28 from other international airports in the Philippines to Japanese airports other than Tokyo.

The agreed equivalent of one entitlement is one round trip flight to an aircraft with about 300 passengers; 1.5 entitlements for aircraft with 250 to 293 passengers; and two entitlements for 300 or more passengers.

Philippine carriers are mostly using Airbus aircraft assumed in one entitlement, PAL flies to Fukuoka, Nagoya, Osaka, and Tokyo from Manila and has a service from Cebu to Osaka and Tokyo. Cebu Pacific flies between Manila and Osaka.

Japan is the Philippines' second largest source of foreign arrivals, next only to the United States. Aside from increasing Japanese visitors, some 175,000 overseas Filipino workers fly annually between the two countries.

However, traffic between the two countries is declining. About 421,000 airline passengers from Japan entered the Philippines in 2008 but this number declined to 305,000 in 2007.

In a recent interview, CAB executive director Carmelo Arcilla said that the declining passenger traffic to an overall softening in the global travel market...as well as more stringent Japanese regulations on overseas Filipino workers, and lower tourist arrivals from Japan.

"But we are confident that our confidence will enable our airlines to develop the market notwithstanding an overall decline in global economy," Arcilla said.

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Business

Inflation expected . . .

From page B1

spending rather than ease monetary policy, Mariotti added.

"The impact of monetary policy is not direct and is not measurable, that's why I always favor fiscal spending [as a way of jump-starting the economy]," he said.

The central bank recently slashed the reserve requirement by 2 percentage points or 1.8 percent. The reserve requirement is the ratio of deposits and deposit substitutes that banks are required to keep in low-yielding and liquid assets in the current funds.

The cut to the reserve requirement freed up P66.5 billion to additional liquidity in the financial system.

It then came as no surprise to the market when the central bank maintained its benchmark interest rate, the overnight borrowing rate, at 6 percent during its policy rate-setting last week.

Mineral, property . . .

From page B1

"They are interested in downstream mineral processing and smelting," Hamm said. "This means at least a billion dollars of investments."

MCC earlier said it may invest as much as $30 billion to explore the area, and put up an integrated steel mill in Bataan and Mindanao to fast-track the line.

"MCC is going slow in the Bataan area," Amiran explained. "Their explorations may not be in concurrence to their requirements, but they are not giving up on the idea of putting up an integrated steel mill. They're just going slow."

Meanwhile, Hamm said that the Philippine government is coming into an agreement with its counterparts in the Association of Southeast Asian Nations to conduct a joint geological assessment of mineral resources in the Philippines.

"Secretary Atienza and his Asean counterparts have already agreed in principle," Hamm said. "I have yet to meet with my counterparts."

The Australian government has earlier committed $15.6 million to conduct a geological assessment of Philippine mineral lands.

Hamm said there would not be any conflict with the country's agreements with its Asean counterparts.

"We just want to complete a geological mapping nationwide," he said.

I-Remit posts 52% growth

By Elizabeth Sanchez-Lacson

MONEY TRANSFER firm I-Remit Inc. said its remittance volume rose 52 percent to $916 million in the first nine months of this year as more people tried despite the global economic downturn.

The rate of increase was higher than the 17 percent improvement in the total remittances from overseas Filipinos during the period to $31.5 billion.

The remittance business growth in Canada drove the company's fourth quarter sales up by 9 percent to September ended Dec. 31 operations posted a 35-percent increase and Europe, 14 percent year-on-year to the same month.

Sales increased by 39 percent in the Middle East during the period, due to aggressive and relevant promotion developed primarily for agents.

"The company remained strategically focused on regions that are more viable. We realigned our tactical operations such that efforts and resources are deployed in areas where business opportunities are greatest. Like to the case of North America, we give emphasis more to Canada than the United States," I-Remit president Haris Jacinto said.

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Business Can be simple

Renewal of corporate life

UNLIKE THEIR COUNTERPART IN the natural world, corporations are assured of an uninterrupted existence for 50 years.

During that period, the law considers a corporation a juridical person that, except for biologically related attributes, has the same rights and privileges as a human being.

The "terms of office" may be shortened at the instance of the stockholders or upon orders of the Securities and Exchange Commission for justifiable reasons after proper notice and hearing.

As long as the corporation complies with its reportorial obligations with the SEC and has not committed any act that could result in the forfeiture of its registration, it can continuously operate.

No annual re-registration or renewal fee is required to be made or paid to enable it to maintain its status as a juridical person.

If, for any reason, the corporate life is terminated, "death" does not happen the way it does with natural persons. The cessation of internal functions and activities is not immediate or abrupt.

The corporation remains in juridical existence for three more years. During that period, it is given the opportunity to settle its affairs, dispose of its properties and distribute the remaining assets to its stockholders.

Liquidation

The question of what brings a corporation into or is authorized to do during those three years, also known as the liquidation period, has been repeatedly raised with the SEC.

Can the corporation amend its articles of incorporation to extend its corporate life for another 50 years?

Can the stockholders change the corporate name, invite new investors and engage in a new line of business?

If the corporate name has gained a lot of goodwill, can it be retained and a new set of officers elected to continue the business so the company can profit from the favorable name recall?

The answer to all these queries is NO.

The SEC has ruled that when a corporation's life ends, whether voluntarily or involuntarily, it is barred from engaging in any activity except to take all the necessary steps to totally wind up operations.

According to the SEC, upon the termination of its existence, a corporation "loses the power to deal and enter into further legal relations with other persons, it may have only such rights as may be required for the purpose of liquidating and winding up its affairs."

Deadline

The three-year period is meant to be used as an opportunity for the company to smoothly transition or choose for the benefit of its creditors and stockholders.

All the activities of the company should be geared toward, in a manner of speaking, leaving the corporate world with a clean conscience and no debts left unsettled.

To underscore the limits of a corporation's activities during the liquidation period, the Corporation Code states that its actions should

CORPORATE SECURITIES INFO, B5 ▸

NORTHRAIL
North Luzon Railways Corporation

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY & TO BID

The North Luzon Railways Corporation (herein referred to as NORTHRAIL) invites interested DISTRIBUTORS, DEALERS and/or SUPPLIERS to apply for eligibility and to bid for the **Procurement of Two Hundred Eighty Three (283) Units of Cabinets, One Hundred Forty Two (142) Units of Chairs, and One Hundred Forty Two (142) Units of Tables** for NORTHRAIL. The Approved Budget for the Contract is (PESOS: Four Million Four Hundred Eighty Two Thousand Eight Hundred Sixty & 00/100 (Php 4,482,860.00))

Interested Parties are required to submit a Letter of Intent (LOI) to the Chairperson, NORTHRAIL Bids and Awards Committee, NORTHRAIL Corporate Office, 2nd Floor Bonifacio Technology Center, 31st Street Corner 2nd Avenue, Crescent Park West, Bonifacio Global City, Taguig City, Metro Manila on or before 4:00 pm between 20 November to 12 December 2008. **The deadline for the submission of LOI is on 12 December 2008, 4:00 pm.** The LOI should state the Company's name, address, and contact person directly employed by the company. Interested distributors, dealers and/or suppliers must secure the Bid Documents and Terms of Reference for a non-refundable fee of FIVE THOUSAND PESOS (Php5,000.00).

For Additional information or clarification, please call Ms. Alma Aricate at 836-3807 or 836-3808.

GLORIA GEORGINA DJ. JOTA
Chairperson, NORTHRAIL – BAC

NORTHRAIL
North Luzon Railways Corporation

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY & TO BID

The North Luzon Railways Corporation (herein referred to as NORTHRAIL) invites interested DISTRIBUTORS, DEALERS and/or SUPPLIERS to apply for eligibility and to bid for the **Procurement of Fifty Two (52) Units of Desktop Computers, Nine (9) Units of Laptop Computers, Seventeen (17) Units of Printers, Seven (7) Units of Scanners, Nineteen (19) Units of Various Software, One (1) Unit Server, One (1) Unit Projector with Document Camera, and One (1) Unit Digital Camera** for NORTHRAIL. The Approved Budget for the Contract is (PESOS: SEVEN MILLION TWO HUNDRED SIXTY FOUR THOUSAND EIGHT HUNDRED (Php7,264,800.00))

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For Additional information or clarification, please call Ms. Alma Aricate at 836-3807 or 836-3808.

GLORIA GEORGINA DJ. JOTA
Chairperson, NORTHRAIL – BAC

Acoje nickel project viable, study says

By Raoul W. Dorotheo

ASTRALIAN FIRM RUSINA MINING NL said the pre-feasibility study (PFS) of its Acoje nickel project in Zambales has been completed and shows a five-year worth sales of $268 million based on a long-term nickel price of $6.4 pound.

Rusina Mining said in a statement that the PFS results showed an economically viable nickel laterite project, which will use heap leach technology to recover 24,500 tons of nickel and 938 tons of cobalt a year.

The company said that it, along with joint venture partner European Nickel Plc, will start a definitive feasibility study to confirm the findings that should be completed by late 2009.

The records completed PFS, which is based on an indicated resource of 30.76 million tons of material with 1.12 percent nickel and 0.06 percent cobalt, puts the initial sales life of Acoje at 10 years.

Further, Acoje's total development cost was estimated at $400 million, including infrastructure and working capital, while payback period was pegged at three years.

"Mining will be at a rate of 3 million tons per year," Rusina Mining said. "Further potential resources have been identified which are expected to extend the mine life beyond 20 years and are expected to be confirmed during the DFS."

"It is proposed that the nickel laterite ore will be leached with dilute sulphuric acid produced from a sulfur burning acid plant to the built at the site," the company added.

"The nickel will be recovered in a precipitation plant as a mixed sulphide concentrate producing two saleable products," it said.

Rusina Mining said the potential development and commercial mining operation at Acoje will have a significant positive economic impact on Zambales and the surrounding region since about half of the construction costs are estimated to be spent within the area.

Of the $400 million in total development cost, an estimated 75 percent will be spent in the Philippines.

Under the firm's so-called three-tiered Acoje strategy on nickel, Rusina is to develop short-term cash flow through the direct shipping of nickel laterite ore, which it has been doing.

The company provides that, in the medium-term, the company would partner with DMCI on downstream smelting operations with an electric arc furnace.

It'll later, Rusina is to develop long-term, low-cost and sustainable mining through heap leach with the London-based Hatch-Goba.

Rusina Mining is jointly investigating with DMCI the feasibility of putting up a nickel/ferronickel smelter facility and considering four options in processing nickel laterite ore.

Shares close higher

From page B4

down," due to high oil and food prices and the emerging crisis in the world financial system, Nomura noted.

He said there was some profit-taking near the end of trading.

Philippine Long Distance Telephone Corp. rose 0.2 percent to P2,305.

Property developer Megaworld Corp. gained 0.09 percent to 66 centavos, while Ayala Land Inc. added 1.09 percent to P23.

Sam Miguel Corp. rose 0.4 percent to P92 and Petron Corp. went up 1.96 percent to P42.50.

AFP

PDIC pushes full deposit coverage to calm nerves

Nograles says move will boost confidence in banks

By Michelle V. Reron

THE STATE-OWNED PHILIPPINE Deposit Insurance Corp. (PDIC) is pushing for the full coverage of deposits in local banks, saying such a move would help boost confidence in the banking sector.

"If you look around us, sky's the limit on [the insurance coverage of] bank deposits in many countries ... That's one way of preserving depositors' confidence," PDIC president Jose Nograles said in a briefing Wednesday night on the sidelines of a Senate hearing on the proposed 2009 national budget, which he attended.

The deposit insurance coverage in the Philippines is currently set at a maximum of P250,000 per account.

Nograles said that under PDIC's proposal, all bank deposits would be fully covered, regardless of amount.

This means that when a bank collapses, depositors can recover all of their savings from the government through PDIC.

Nograles said PDIC officials were already to talks with the Department of Finance and some legislators about the proposed full insurance coverage of bank deposits.

"The government must be able to provide whatever is needed to ensure stability of the system, and this may include the provision of blanket [insurance] coverage, meaning all deposits," Nograles said.

There are several bills in the House of Representatives and the Senate seeking to increase the maximum amount of deposit insurance from P250,000 to P1 million.

Nograles said PDIC was supportive of these bills, but that it believed it would be better for the government to just cover all deposits.

Nograles also said that he agreed with the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas' view that the country's banking sector was healthy, with its minimal exposure to toxic loans and subprime capital.

Considering the country's healthy banking system, the full insurance coverage of deposits would not even be necessary.

But Nograles said that insuring all deposits would help raise confidence among bank depositors, which was necessary to help the domestic banking system avoid the worst of the adverse effects of the financial crisis in the United States and Europe.

The PDIC has also proposed that it be given the power to take over the management of banks that could no longer service withdrawals.

Nograles said this would be more prudent than the existing practice of the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas coming in to shut down bankrupt banks.

To avoid panic among depositors and prevent contagion, bankrupt banks should continue to operate under PDIC until all assets are sold, he said.

The PDIC official said deposit insurers in other countries, including the Federal Deposit Insurance Corp. of the United States, take over bankrupt banks and do not allow them to immediately shut down.

Both said the government have stepped into the local banking sector due to the global financial crisis that started in the United States when financial institutions invested heavily in the high-risk subprime market.

Such an approach has forced several corporate giants in the United States to declare bankruptcy and run to the US government for assistance.

Some financial institutions in advanced economies in Europe have likewise suffered from liquidity problems.

SEC approves Nihao plan to raise P500M

By Elizabeth Sanchez-Lucero

THE SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE Commission has approved the plan of Nihao Mineral Resources International Inc. to raise P500 million from a stock rights offer.

In documents filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC), Nihao, chaired by Former president Joseph Estrada's chief of staff Michael Defensor, will sell 500 million shares at P1 each.

The company said it would use the proceeds to increase its capital, fund the exploration of its Surigao and Masbate projects and settle advances made by shareholders.

Mimosa Timera Gumis Inc., a wholly-owned subsidiary of Nihao, has exploration rights over the Bawlan Mining claim in Zimbabwe with an area of 5,881 hectares.

The area is said to have good nickel resources.

Its Memorial Grassroots Inc. subsidiary meanwhile, has a pending exploration permit application with the Mines and Geosciences Bureau covering the Mainit Mining claim in Misamis Oriental with an area of 1,922 hectares.

The company has earned full capital and investment Corp. as its issue managers and underwriters.

No timetable was indicated, however.

The shares will come from the proposed increase in the firm's authorized capital to P2 billion from P500 million.

Chinese firms still keen on investing in RP mines

By Amy R. Remo

CHINESE MINING GIANTS have expressed renewed interest in local mining projects while others have stepped up their interest to explore more, according to a senior government official.

Mines and Geosciences Bureau Director Horacio Ramos disclosed that Jiuhua Non-Ferrous Metal Corp., China's largest producer of nickel and cobalt, is currently scouting for copper projects.

Ramos earlier expressed interest in the King King copper-gold project of Benguet Corp., but the proposed joint venture did not push through.

Ramos also disclosed that Zijin Mining Group Co. Ltd. has likewise expressed interest in pushing through with its plan to seek majority control of Lepanto Consolidated Mining Co.'s Far Southeast gold project in Mankayan, Benguet.

Zijin, one of the largest gold producers in China, owns eight gold and copper mines including the Zijinshan Gold Mine, which is said to be the largest open pit gold mine in China.

Zijin had planned to buy additional shares from other stakeholders after it completes the purchase from Lepanto. It initially wants to buy a 20 percent stake.

Industry sources said that Zijin would be worth at least P60 million.

"In January, we will go to the [Mines and Geosciences Bureau] to start negotiations. Our purpose is to firm up their commitment to invest for the Southeast project and improve their interest," Ramos said.

He added that the MGB was processing Zijin's application to convert the project's Mineral Production Sharing Agreement to a Financial Technical Assistance Agreement, as only under the FTAA that a foreign mining firm can gain a controlling stake in a local mining project.

The MPSA for the Far Southeast project was issued on March 3, 1990 and covers the original maximum area of 848.87 hectares.

Meanwhile, Ramos also disclosed that Environment Secretary Lito Atienza had approved the application of Rapsolana Mining Corp. for an exploration permit.

The permit, which was signed last Wednesday, covers 4,985.92 hectares of mineral land in Tuguegarao.

Rapsolana is a subsidiary of Phelps Dodge, an operating subsidiary of Freeport-McMoran Copper & Gold Inc. (FCX), the world's largest publicly traded copper company.

Atienza also signed last Wednesday the exploration permit of MPI Gold Philippines Inc. and Egerton Gold Philippines Inc. The permit covers 874 hectares in Lubo, Batangas.

Firms book $20M in sales

PHILIPPINE FOOD exporters booked $20 million in sales during the recent Halal World Expo 2009 in the United Arab Emirates (UAE), said the Department of Agriculture.

Agriculture Assistant Secretary Cheryl Ubalo explained that the positive response of DA-backed Philippine exporters to bodes well for ongoing efforts to help Filipino exporters get a big share of the $500-billion global halal market.

Halal refers to food permissible under Islamic Law.

Exporters who participated in the expo were Agribusiness Inc., Bataches, Farms and Trading Corp., Chai Lo Yik Food (Phil. Inc., Fluvium Seeds Corp., Guaranteed Manufacturing, Q Phil Products International, RFM Corp., Jo Bridis Lechon Manok and Visayan Chamber of Mango Industry (VCMI). Amy R. Remo

Republic of the Philippines
Province of Bukidnon
MUNICIPALITY OF IMPASUGONG
Bukidnon Rural Development Project II
Rehabilitation/Improvement of Impasugong Water System
Project ID No. IA-887-BUK-07
Loan No. 7440-PH

1. The Government of the Philippines (GOP) has received a Loan from the World Bank towards the cost of Bukidnon Rural Development Project II and it intends to apply part of the proceeds of the Loan to payments under the Contract for Rehabilitation/Improvement of Impasugong Water System (Contract No. IA-887-BUK-07).
2. The Municipality of Impasugong, implementing partner of the Department of Agriculture, now invites sealed Bids from eligible Bidders for Rehabilitation/Improvement of Impasugong Water System. Completion of the Works envisioned by One Hundred Twenty (120) Calendar Days.
3. Bidding will be conducted through open competitive bidding procedures as specified in the Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR) of Republic Act No. 9184 (R.A. 9184), otherwise known as the Government Procurement Reform Act, subject to exceptions stated in the Bidding Documents, only from those Bidders who are determined to be eligible (short-listed) for the Project, pursuant to the Instructions to Bidders (ITB) Clause 4.
4. The Municipality of Impasugong now invites Bids for the rehabilitation/improvement of the Impasugong Water System and Drainage Improvement of Poblacion Impasugong, Bukidnon.
5. Interested eligible Bidders may obtain further information from the Bids and Awards Committee and inspect the Bidding Documents at the address given below from 8:00 AM to 4:00 PM, Monday to Friday.
6. A complete set of Bidding Documents in English may be purchased by interested Bidders from the address below and upon payment of a non-refundable fee of Four Thousand Pesos (Php 4,000.00). The Bidding Documents shall be received personally by the Bidder or his authorized representative on or before January 5, 2010.
7. The Municipality of Impasugong will hold a Pre-Bid Conference open to all Eligible Bidders on December 15, 2009 @ 2:00 PM at the Municipal Mayor's Conference Room, Municipality of Impasugong, Bukidnon.
8. Eligible Bidders must submit their Bids at the address given below on January 5, 2010 @ 10:00 AM. All Bids must be accompanied by a Bid security in the form of cash, certified manager's or cashier's check, bank guarantee and in an amount specified in the Bid Documents. Late Bids shall not be accepted. Bid opening shall be on January 5, 2010 @ 10:00 AM at the Executive Conference Room, Municipal Hall, Impasugong, Bukidnon. Bids will be opened in the presence of the Bidders' representatives who choose to attend at the address below on January 5, 2010 @ 10:01 AM.
9. The Municipality of Impasugong reserves the right to accept or reject any Bid, to annul the bidding process, and to reject all Bids at any time prior to contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected Bidder or Bidders.

JONNES SALE
Chairman, Bids and Awards Committee
Municipal Hall, Poblacion Impasugong, Bukidnon
Cellular Number

Signature of the BAC Chairman or Authorized Representative of the BAC Chairman

DBP steps up lending to low-cost housing

Demand for socialized housing projected to reach 3.75 million units by 2010

By Dustin L. Lucas

THE DEMAND FOR LOW-COST and socialized housing is expected to remain strong despite the downturn that has started to take hold of the local real estate industry.

Because of this, Development Bank of the Philippines said it would continue lending funds available to this sector in an effort to meet the rising need for new houses, which was projected to reach 3.75 million units by 2010.

David presented this projection during the annual meeting of the Chamber of Real Estate and Builders Associates (Creba) in Makati City yesterday.

The chief of the state's development funding institution conceded that the high-end real estate market would soften due to the global financial crisis, as demand for high-rise condominiums from expatriate Filipinos was expected to weaken.

"With demand waning and the economy weakening, the market could see a significant oversupply given the many new towers in condominiums and others these projects are completed," he said.

"Thus, with the economy slowing down, combined with the expectation of higher interest rates and a looming housing oversupply, the housing market is expected to slow down further in the future."

David pointed out, however, that there were several mitigating factors that could help spur demand in other segments of the real estate market.

In particular, he said the price of steel used by builders had come off significantly, while the price of cement had increased only slightly.

The cost of grade 60 rebars in June of this year stood at P62.52 per piece, but has dropped to P57.57 this month, representing a decline of over 50 percent.

"The reason for this price drop was the decrease in demand for rebars after the construction boom in China, which hosted the 2008 Olympics," he said. "This should drop even more as China experiences a major weakening in the exports of machinery and home appliances coupled with the collapse in the Chinese housing market that's triggering sharp declines in construction."

In the meantime, the rate of interest per bag in June 2008 stood at P187, and has risen slightly to P194 as of this month.

"There are opportunities in this situation which [builders] may perhaps want to take advantage of, because construction cost today should be, if not already, cheaper," David said.

Because of this, DBP has doubled its efforts to lend to the non-speculative elements of the housing industry.

"We have particularly targeted assistance to deliver projects that will benefit the informal sector, and the segment of our society living well below the poverty threshold," David said.

To this end, the DBP chief said the bank's exposure in socialized and low-cost housing had risen to P91.1 billion as of the end of the third quarter of 2004.

"We'd like to upscale our capacity to serve more and more households in the coming years, and make a concrete contribution towards addressing the problem of inadequate housing," he added.

PEZA CHIEF MEETS TOYOTA ZONE LOCATORS
Philippine Economic Zone Authority Director General Lilia de Lima (left) is welcomed by Toyota Motor Philippines Corp. president Hiroshi Ide during the second regular update meeting of the locators at the Toyota Special Economic Zone in Santa Rosa City, Laguna. The TMZE locators, composed of world-class automotive parts and components manufacturers, presented to PEZA an update on their performance, employment generation, exports and investments. With De Lima and Ide are (from left) TMP senior executive vice president David Go, Peza zone manager Antonio Ferrer, Peza deputy director general Mary Hamlet Abordo, and TMP vice president for corporate affairs Rommel Gutierrez

China says downturn deepens; rate cut lifts shares

SINGAPORE—CHINA YESTERDAY started to economic downturn was deepening with the spread of the global financial crisis, raising the specter of job losses and social unrest in the world's most populous nation.

The warnings from the country's top planner came a day after China's central bank slashed interest rates by the biggest margin in 11 years in a shock to investors from the worst global downturn in decades.

The crisis that began last year with the collapse of the US housing market spread around the world, bringing several top financial institutions to their knees and pushing the United States, Japan and Europe into recession or to the brink of it.

China's economy, the world's fourth biggest, is still expanding, but the growth engine is sputtering, hit by a slump in demand for its exports. This quarter is expected to be its worst in three years.

Crisis not yet over

"The global financial crisis has not bottomed out yet. The impact is spreading globally and deepening in China. Some domestic economists indicate point to an accelerated slowdown in November," Zhang Ping, chair of the National Development and Reform Commission, told a news conference.

The State Information Center, a government think-tank, forecast annual growth would slow to 8 percent this quarter from 9 percent in the third quarter, still a respectable figure but a far cry from the double-digit growth rates recorded in the past five years.

With factories closing by the thousands, Chinese officials have grown increasingly concerned by recent weeks that slowing growth may threaten the stability that the ruling communist party craves for its 1.3 billion people.

"Excessive bankruptcies and production cuts will lead to massive unemployment and big social unrest," Zhang warned.

Asia stocks rise

Closing said Wednesday's 108 basis point cut will would reinforce the impact of the government's 4 trillion yuan stimulus package unveiled on Nov 9. The package that aims to boost domestic demand over the next two years and offset the sharp drop in exports, should boost growth by about 1 percentage point each year, he said.

China's unexpectedly big rate cut helped Asian stock markets climb up a fifth gain in a row, even as India, Asia's other new economic power, was shaken by its biggest crash in the financial capital Mumbai that killed at least 100 people.

US markets are closed for Thanksgiving on Thursday after a new housing gaining steam to the S&P 500 index to 1,200.

In a sign how essential was China's success for the rest of the world, top global names 20-F Billion cited a drop in China's demand for iron ore when it painted a gloomy outlook for its business and defended its decision to drop a $66 billion bid for rival Rio Tinto.

Aggressive interest rate cuts and trillions of dollars in financial rescue bailouts and stimulus packages have been the order of the day since the financial crisis culminated with the collapse of Lehman Brothers in September, freezing lending and overwhelming the pain to consumers and businesses.

South Korea, which has already pledged more than $150 billion in debt guarantees, financial rescue aid, tax cuts and extra spending, on Thursday refused to do more to stimulate its economy as it battles a slump in exports, which has been a key lead debt from banks and said it would also tap a $30-billion swap line with the US Federal Reserve to supply scarce dollars.

On Wednesday, the European Commission called for an EU-wide fiscal stimulus worth 200 billion euros ($258 billion) in an attempt to stave off recession in the 27-nation bloc.

National packages already announced by countries including Germany, Britain, Spain, the Netherlands and Hungary amount to about half of the total, coming quarters over how much of a boost is still really give the EU economy.

EC move

European Central Bank policymakers made plain that the ECB was ready to do its part and cut interest rates again. ECB governing council members Christian Noyer and Axel Weber said there was room for lower rates given an expected drop in euro zone inflation below the bank's 2-percent target area year. ECB president Jean-Claude Trichet was more insistent but also left the door open for another rate cut at the Dec. 4 policy meeting in Brussels.

Analysts polled by Reuters expect the ECB to cut its benchmark rate by another half a point to 2.75 percent, its lowest in more than two years.

Earlier this week the Fed unveiled an $800 billion plan to buy mortgage-related debt and bank consumer loans, bringing the total pledged rescue bill to as much as $8.2 trillion, more than half of the US gross domestic product.

Reuters

SBC offers 8.62% yield on notes

SECURITY BANK CORP. HAS OFFERED AN indicative yield of 8.623 percent on its unsubordinated notes issuance, which qualifies as tier 2 or supplementary capital.

The bank, which aims to raise P3 billion from this exercise, will finalize the pricing of its tier 2 notes at the end of the offering period today. The indicative yield of 8.623 percent was announced by SBC president Alberto Villarosa yesterday.

"By choosing to set the price at the end of the offer period, the rates on the notes will be able to compete with products of similar nature and will be adjusted favorably for the investor," the bank said in a statement.

"It's actually not bad for Security Bank to give this kind of rates, considering that it has issued these notes given the perception of risks against banks with a wider capital base," said Edward Sawyer, an analyst at AIB Aim Sing Securities.

Sawyer also said the recent spate of offerings of tier 2 notes by other banks has the prevailing global trend, underlying the strength of the bond banking sector.

Proceeds from the issuance would be used to refinance a P3-billion, tier 2 issuance in January 2004. SBC is set to exercise its call option and thus retire the notes on January 2009.

Lead managers for the deal are Deutsche Bank AG and ING Bank NV Manila Branch.

Security Bank's the notes were given an A+ national rating by global credit watching Fitch Ratings. Doris C. Dumlao

Neda chief sees balanced budget in 2011

By Michelle V. Rosso

THE GOVERNMENT WILL LIKELY START posting a balanced budget in 2011, instead of 2010 as earlier projected, according to Socio-Economic Planning Secretary Rolando Reyes.

Reyes said the downturn in the global economy would require the government to continually boost public spending to help maintain a decent economic growth in the next two years. Because tax collection is not expected to grow as fast as the expenditures, the country is expected to continue posting widening deficits in 2008.

"I expect this [global downturn] caused largely by contraction in advanced economies] to drag on for two years. But by 2011, perhaps we can already have a balanced budget," Reyes said in a press conference yesterday.

The government yesterday announced that the Philippine grew by 6.6 percent in the third quarter, slower than the 7.1 percent growth in the same period last year. (See story on Page B1.) This, however, was at the high-end of the Neda's growth forecast of between 5.8 and 6.6 percent for the quarter.

The Arroyo administration's economic team has not yet officially abandoned the goal to post a balanced budget by 2010. But Reyes said the 2010 schedule has become difficult to meet given the need for pump-priming.

Reyes estimated that the government would post a budget deficit equivalent to 1.5 percent of the country's gross domestic product by 2010 before hitting parity by 2011.

The original target of having zero deficit by 2010 took into account a budget gap of only P40 billion in 2009. However, economic managers adjusted the fiscal program for 2009, allowing a budget deficit of P181 billion, equivalent to 1.2 percent of the estimated GDP for next year.

Officials earlier explained that a budget deficit was a normal consequence of an economic slowdown because the government would be forced to spend more on pump-priming and tax collection was likely to decline due to lower corporate profits.

Reyes is confident that the situation will not result in the downgrading of the country's credit ratings.

"Right now, they (credit rating agencies) consider a budget deficit equivalent to 2 percent of GDP still acceptable," Reyes said. The country's chief economist said it was not possible for the country to achieve and get when the bigger issue of economic slowdown had to be addressed.

All three major international credit rating firms (including Fitch Ratings, Standard & Poor's and Moody's) investors [revised] have assigned a "below-investment" grade to the Philippines. But Reyes said he did not see any of these ratings firms downgrading the country's credit ratings further.

US firm expects boom in data warehousing

By Riza T. Olchondra

OHIO-BASED TERADATA CORP. has expressed deep interest in the Philippines in anticipation of a boom in data warehousing and analysis, where it has global expertise.

Teradata officials said demand for enterprise-class intelligence for telecom firms, banks and financial institutions in the Philippines was increasing. Clothing, media, entertainment, hospitality, healthcare, pharmaceuticals, insurance and government service providers are also potential clients.

"There are companies that need to process and analyze huge volumes of data," Teradata country manager Lyndon Lascuna said in a briefing.

Dennis Kennel, Teradata area vice president for Southeast Asia and India, said the company was bullish on this business despite the economic downturn's worldwide because data was increasingly regarded as a core company asset.

"When times are good, data is important because it helps companies grow the business. When times are bad, data is even more important because it helps companies assess risk, competition, and strategies. And companies in the Philippines are already aware of this, so it's easier for us to persuade you rather to them," Kennel said.

Corporate Securities Info

Front page B4

ner be "for the purpose of continuing the business for which it was established."

Thus, if the stockholders of a corporation whose term is about to reach the half-century mark want to continue to operate beyond the corporate existence, they have to file for the amendment of the term of the corporation before that fateful day comes.

As soon as a new lease is in corporate life is extended, the corporation can re-organize itself, elect new directors, amend its corporate objectives and do anything it wants (as long as they're legitimate, of course) with its resources.

The reason that the 50-year limit was "introduced" is "escaped the attention" of the stockholders to justify the delay in amending the articles of the incorporation is not acceptable.

No lawyer worth his salt would miss that critical element in the life of his corporate client and fail to file the necessary papers with the SEC before the deadline lapses.

Dissolution

But what if the corporation does not want to renew its term and yet plans to use the assets that would remain after liquidation as capital for a new corporation, can the member/or director during the three-year period to spread up things?

The SEC has ruled that the liquidation period cannot be used to accomplish that objective even if the stockholders of the soon-to-expire and soon-to-be-born corporations are the same.

Under all intents and purposes the two corporations are separate and distinct from each other. Thus, the SEC explained that "in the absence of a corporate liquidation, the real property of a dissolved corporation cannot be automatically transferred to another corporation."

In a situation like this, the dissolved corporation should, after paying its creditors, distribute the remaining assets as liquidating dividends to its stockholders, either individually or collectively.

After the proper taxes for the distribution have been paid and title over the assets transferred to the stockholders, the same properties can be used or transferred to the capital needed to set up a new corporation with the same set of stockholders.

This way, the old company can officially and completely retire from the corporate world and an entirely new corporation, although with the same stockholders, can take its place without any hitches.

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Finding the right door to the consumer

By Margie Quimpo-Espino

WHEN A CONSUMER closes one door, he opens another.

The key then for businesses to succeed in constantly capturing the consumers' money, even in these trying times, is to always find the open door.

For instance, while oil prices escalated from May to about August this year, each business direction for GIs in the Philippines flew. Yet says travel spending also moved up.

This is because consumers still wanted and needed to travel. So to go around the problem of steep fuel prices, consumers were for budget airlines. Thus, the increase in travel spend.

Shopping levels for essentials also remained the same based on credit card use.

Yen says in an interview that based on the daily monitoring of credit card use, there was no signifi-

cant change in the spending patterns in supermarkets—which means people are not scrimping on the basics.

Yen, however, admits seeing some slowdown in other areas—particularly the amount spent in department stores and boutiques.

"We expect the fourth quarter to be not as we targeted," Yen says.

He notes that based on GIs daily trans-

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EQUICOM Opening Doors, Building Tomorrows

Globe explores profitable microfinancing arena

Telco teams up with group to help poor get access to loans

By Nico T. Dizon

A MICROFINANCE FIRM AND A telecommunications giant make strange bedfellows.

Not true, say Globe Telecom's mobile commerce unit, G-Xchange Inc (GXI), and The CountryFarrow Group in Asia's door, which have teamed up to know how people with little or no access to banks can get their hands on financial products such as loans.

Why would a microfinancing firm team up with a telecommunications group?

CGAP microfinance analyst Rabbi Rozen says the answer is simple: Telecommunications services can bridge the gap between the "unbanked" or "underbanked."

"Alternatives to traditional banking services are growing quickly around the world. Cell phones and other technologies will change the way we use financial products everywhere. But few underserved here the poor will use these, and when extremely downmarket, how these services flourish. Working with GXI in the Philippines makes it possible for us to figure that out in an unprecedented way," he explains.

GXI president Alicia Mauricio-Joko adds that the idea is not so farfetched as it seems.

She says that the project will study how much access low-to-some provisions have to formal banking systems and how residents can use G-Cash to pay for micro loans or even make loan repayment transactions.

G-Cash is the mobile commerce platform of Globe Telecom, the second largest mobile network operator in the Philippines.

For their joint project, GXI and CGAP chose to study Iloilo, Iligan and Dumaguete.

Citing various studies, Joko says that about 90 percent of the combined population of 1.9 million in the three provinces earn about $1 a day or less, indicating that they live below the poverty line.

CGAP communications officer Jim Rosenberg says that his organization has allocated $600,000 for the project, which ends in 2008.

Besides getting access to research funding and know-how from CGAP, the endeavor enables GXI to further increase the number of G-Cash users over the next two years.

Joko says the project target is to have a combined 80,000 new G-Cash subscribers in the three selected sites (Iloilo, Iligan and Dumaguete) by 2010.

Joko clarifies, however, that the project with CGAP is separate from the recent initiative of Globe in Iloilo a "mobile bank" with the help of parent company Ayala Corp. and sister company Bank of the Philippine Islands.

"The G-Cash transactions we will study with CGAP will not necessarily involve banks. But we may tie up with commercial banks, rural banks, cooperatives, remittance and currency exchange companies, and even pawnshops, depending on the needs of target G-Cash users for money transfers, payment of goods, bills payment, paying loans, etc.," Joko says.

"We have just started the project so we haven't figured out yet how to use G-Cash to give poor communities access to financial services. So far, one of the scenarios we are preparing for is if we find the need to give very few pesos to poor people in Iloilo can, say, start a business needing and receiving remittances. We will try projects like this," she adds.

At the end of the two-year study, CGAP and GXI will publish the results of the research with the international consensus, a way to add on the growing body of knowledge on using wireless technology to increase access to financial services for poor people in emerging markets.

The project is part of CGAP's microfinance technology programs, which is co-funded by the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation.

Finding the right door to the consumer

Front page No. 1

toring of cost use, spending during payday weekends has not been as robust as in the past, while midnight students who are also producing the spending levels hoped for by retailers.

Fewer buyers

A bazaar participant also notes that there were fewer buyers last month, which is when the upper income bracket usually starts doing its Christmas shopping.

One possible explanation is that the rich, who invested in financial instruments in the United States had lost a good portion of their money.

But Gil knows that as in the past years, the consumers might do their last-minute shopping in the last two weeks before Christmas.

With such a scenario in mind, Citi Philippines launched a major promotion to encourage people to shop.

And when's on the table, Tan says, is something geared toward the working woman.

Partnered after a program implemented by Citibank Thailand, the group launched the Citi Royal Treat. The promo gives the cardholder with two options.

One is to join the raffle, where the winner gets a round trip ticket for two to London, nine week accommodation and $5,000 shopping money, and the other is the Triple Rewards Points, where the user gets triple the rewards points for all transactions.

The Thailand promo was called the London Feast where the winner gets to eat the world renowned Peking Duck in the four Seasons Hotels.

But Tan says Citi in the Philippines thought of the prizes based on consumer insight, which says that Filipino women shop when they are abused. But while they love to shop, they would choose to treat the entire family to a trip instead of buying something new, if they had the money.

The target markets for this promo are "typical working person, in the mid-executive level."

"We designed the campaign with mothers in mind, who are always buying and shopping for their family, and stressing that will be a life-changing experience," says Austin N. Lim of Citi's public relations and communications department.

There will be consolation prizes of gift packages from Rustans and two winners will get to shop P100,000 worth of goods in Rustans.

Banner year

Despite the financial odds the Philippines faced this year, Lim says 2006 is a banner year for the cards division with the launch of four cards—the relaunch of the Shell card, a travel card, the Rustans Citi and the Citi Choice.

Citi has repositioned itself to focus more on the high-end market. Several years ago, it expanded into the lower-income segment by approving more card applications.

But Citi soon realized that the lower-income segment is not its core market and so it slowly went back to its original clientele.

And Tan says that despite the challenging times, Citi is going to focus on "improving services to consumers and brand building them."

Turning around a 60-yr-old agency

Pretzeprge B3-4

One of two grand dames of Philippine advertising, Ace-Saatchi & Saatchi is turning 60 in 2009 and is now under the leadership of a man, who almost single-handedly reconstituted Saatchi & Saatchi Malaysia and built Saatchi & Saatchi Vietnam.

He came a Mail Seddon, a British national, who is also a great fan of the Filipinos for being strong in the face of adversity. Seddon has a Filipino wife and two kids.

Seddon helped build Saatchi & Saatchi's Ho Chi Minh's office. Today that agency is Vietnam's most creative ad agency and was first to win in Cannes.

Under Seddon's leadership, Saatchi & Saatchi Malaysia rose from depths of the 1997 Asian financial crisis to become one of Dentsumex Asia's most consistent creative enterprises. Dislodging perennial top-defender Naga DDB, it was Malaysia's back-to-back Agency of the Year in 2003 and 2004.

Career start

Seddon started his career in the Philippines by taking over an equally illustrious institution on the verge of being forgotten. He demanded humongous layoffs, old thinking and, most importantly, re-energized its creative department by hiring new people.

The outcome was just mind-blowing.

Between 2005 and 2006, JWT became a giant killer, winning a print gold in Asia Silver, a Silver in One Show and a bronze from both Cannes and Clio.

The following year was even more mind-boggling. JWT brought home the brightest jewel in the Philippines' crown: a gold from the Oscars of advertising, Cannes.

In two years, JWT Philippines under Seddon became the most awarded agency in its global network.

Now Ace-Saatchi & Saatchi Philippines vice chair, Seddon hopes to once again put his magic touch to an agency reinvigorated by a blue-chip team.

Unique brand

Raoul Hemrora, 37 and executive creative director, provides him the creative passion to serve a unique Saatchi brand of creativity to the agency's roster of clients.

The equation, according to Seddon, is simple: "We are in people's business so we should get the right people. Right people give you the best ideas, and the best ideas refocused to money and awards," he says.

He walks the talk.

No wonder he brought in young Tote Sarmiento, formerly from BBDO and Dentsuby, as VP for Integration.

With Sarmiento, he put together a new fourth team of 40 people from different agency cultures, with varied backgrounds but with one common denominator—talent with overflowing passion.

"You can't teach passion. If you don't have it, you don't fit in. Advertising isn't complicated. It's us, who make it complicated—over intellectualizing, over researching things to death," Seddon says.

The Saatchi Asia country-builder (he also worked with Saatchi & Saatchi Hong Kong and Indonesia) is better known as "The Turn-Around Man," is proud of the new Saatchi & Saatchi worldwide advertising mantra developed by Kevin Roberts.

'Love Marks'

Called "Love Marks"—the new Saatchi thinking is not just about being product-centric, the brand being a mere commodity it goes beyond the brand's rational equities.

"Love Marks" tell us that an emotional benefit is compensation money can't buy in identifies four benefits as "Love" and the immeasurable experience it leaves consumers.

"When you have high love, you get high respect. You build a connection, you build brand intimacy that begets trust that ultimately bears a long-lasting relationship," Seddon says.

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BUSINESS Friday

MATT Sanchez, Jon Santos & Santos' co-stub, the Suzuki 'kare-a-sound-car'

Turning around a 60-yr-old agency

By Regie Pe
Contributor

ACE-SANTOS & SANTOS (FORMERLY Ace-Compton) comes to mind when you talk about agencies that have produced people, who had made an indelible mark on the advertising industry, mavericks, who had sculpted attractive reputation and gurus, who had built strong brands.

The people it has produced reads like a who's who in advertising: Mickey Dellosos, Greg Garcia III, Tony Zarillo, Tony Mercado, Tessie Tomas, Jimmy Santiago, Mon Jimenez, Riley Jimenez, Melvin Mangada, Mario Mercaogado, Teddy Tankiebo and David Pevery, to name a few.

Credit this prolific production of leaders to the agency's management team, which has a knack for finding raw talent and developing them into valuable gems.

TURNING TO 3

Isn't consumer insighting the same as market research, and therefore just a rebranding of market research?—II

I ONCE ISSUED A SIMILAR CAUTION regarding new market insighting, which I had referred to as market understanding research. Here's that warning: There are much more than a dozen ways to search and uncover new market opportunities to grow and even explode your business.

For a successful search, avoid two common traps. The first is the trap of allowing yourself to be held back by the traditional, the conventional practice or even by "best practices." It's the bias of the unfamiliar, the new that's trapping you. It's okay to be afraid, but don't let it stop you from innovating, experimenting and taking that path least traveled.

The other trap is just as bad. That's the mindset that likes complex and "sophisticated" search and market understanding approaches at the expense of simple but robust ones.

New' products

In my strategic market segmentation book, I tried to address this question: "If you want to grow your business, what is the true and ultimate source for that growth?" Most would say "new products" or "current products."

The book challenged that answer by demonstrating that even if you have the most interesting product, if there's no market segment in need of it, it will not sell and there will be no business growth. So it is in searching and identifying new market segments where the goal of business growing or even exploding the business can be realized.

It was relatively easy to obtain growth statistics to prove that when a new "unserved" market segment was uncovered, a three-digit growth was attainable. That kind of growth is what "exploding" is all about, or what pertains to new market insighting. The two-digit tax of more than 30 percent is what comes from identifying an "underserved" market segment. That's the purpose and function of consumer insighting.

Later, the awareness and full recognition of the power of new market insighting reached an apex point when Chan Kim and Renee Mauborgne published in 2005 their best seller *Blue Ocean Strategy* book. They used a new term for new market segments. They referred to them as "uncontested new market spaces." This term caught the fancy of many marketers and corporate strategists and it was probably the most significant and pivotal contribution to the reinvention of the rich concept of new market segments and the market segmentation strategy.

So it is in the direction and mission of the opportunity search where the difference between consumer insighting and new market insighting lies. In the preceding paragraph, we described consumer insighting as mainly concerned with the opportunities lagging after the underserved market segments. On the other hand, we throw new market insighting into the mix to refer to the search for opportunities in the unserved market spaces.

Extending the preceding premises logically leads to justifying a consumer insighting-centered cluster to become a new book) to cover the following topics: (1) how to insight for your brand positioning's big idea, big mission or big story; (2) how to insight for the big idea, big emotion or big story of your brand positioning's execution, that is, its advertising; (3) how to insight for market responsive pricing and price segmentation; and (4) how to insight into the influences on consumer in-store shopping and purchasing behavior, and shopping behavioral segmentation.

The sessions will also cover: (1) how to insight new market segment for your existing product and brand, and (2) how to insight new market spaces for your new, redeveloped, and/or next generation product.

If you carefully take another look at all the preceding, you will certainly notice that what we are saying is that the discipline of market research has extended in two new branches: consumer insighting research, and new market insighting research. To be sure, there are overlaps but each has its own territory and unique emphasis. In addition to helping marketers do a better job at growing and even exploding sales and market share.

Giving way

And that's how it is with every discipline. The traditional gives way to the new, which is a non-traditional version of the old.

But how's something all of us must recognize. As the influential futurist, Eddie Yuhnow, has demonstrated, every time something new and non-traditional comes, the old does not disappear and it not completely replaced by the new.

Instead, when the dust settles, it's a hybrid of the new and the old that prevails.

At times, what you have is a hybrid of the new and all of the old ones. There's so clearly demonstrated in our industry by the history of advertising media. When radio arose, it predicted that the days of print were numbered. It did not happen.

Tri-media

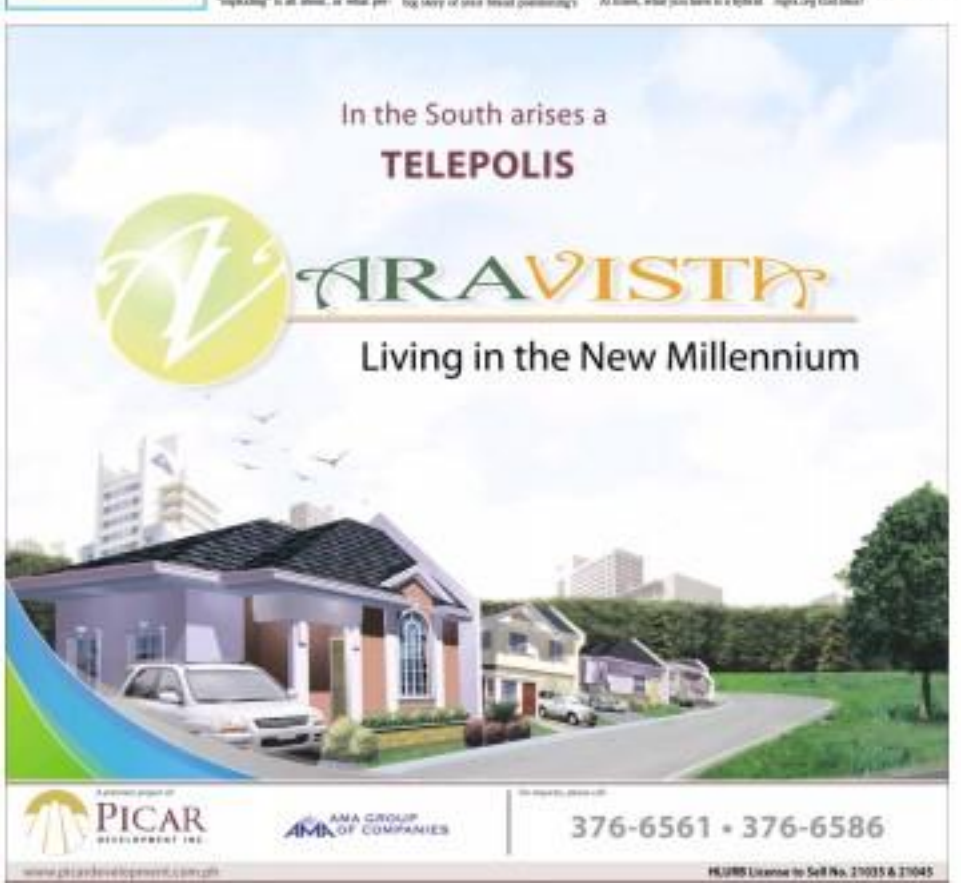
While it suffered for a while, print survived and some advertisers started placing their ads in both. Later, TV came, and similarly TV announced that the days of radio and print were numbered. Similar to what happened with radio, the prediction did not come true.

Instead, we saw the event and wide adoption of the tri-media practice. Ads were placed in print, radio and TV. At the dose of the last millennium, online media came along. In its own advertisements, online told its audience that TV et al. should count their living days. But today, we are witness to the rise of all four media.

This is our long way of saying that market research in the "old" is similar to consumer insighting in the "new," and new market insighting is the "newer" has clearly NOT been unreasonably rebranded by the new and the newer. It's okay to be skeptical of anything "new." But keep that period of skepticism as short as possible. Proceed to the next stage of understanding what real, practical and actionable utilities there may be in the old-brand "new" and "newer."

Try and test if their promises of better ways of growing and exploding your business can benefit your own company by writing to your question, this is where you are now and we're glad. Please go on to the next stages and you won't regret it.

Keep your questions coming. Send them to us at marketingrx@pldt.net.ph or you share at www.marketingrx.org God bless!



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BMOE designer Joanna Litton

To practical women, the shoes are just calfskin leather and plastic heels with fine beadwork. To this 21-year-old, they are like an entry in her diary

JOANNA LITTON

Her shoes are 'sexy but not scandalous'

Eva, a ballerina-fan with a second-life clothes, prepared on a 17th-century French clock

By Margo C. Enriquez
Contributor

THE PRODUCT OF imagination and chutzpah, a bespoke shoe line was born.

In her childhood, Joanna Camilla Litton wanted to be a scientist or a marine biologist. Instead she ended up in dentistry at the University of the East. Bored with oral histology and dental waxing, she started sketching her friends' shoes.

A friend from the Voodoo clan, makers of the tennis dog "Tiny there of the '90s, asked Joanna to be a partner in a shoe line. Although it didn't get off the ground, Joanna hung on to her dream.

After two years of dentistry, she tended the mouth mirrors and dental probes for shoe lasts and leather soles. Joanna was finally going on entrepreneurial. With a capital of close to a million, she was ready to put her foot forward. Asked how she raised her capital, Joanna said proudly, "From my savings!"

"I'm very lawyer (likely)," she explained. "I bar clothes on sale, I sex and munch. I wear simple classic pieces."

Surely she must have had an allowance that matched the salary of a company executive to accumulate such an amount.

It turned out, her grandfather invested for her in the stock market years ago. She also saved up her cadeut fees from modeling.

Her aunt, Edwina Litton Dreyer, once owned a shoe factory, and a cousin produced beaded bags. With their help, Joanna tapped the manpower in the shoe capital of Marikina and other suppliers.

Seeing her determination, Joanna's parents gave her showroom space in

SEE SHOES >>

GAP

FOR THE INQUIRER shoes, Lilcon's shoes were showcased in this interesting home-like display to owner's stylish yet quirky roots, combining vintage, modern, even *hip* furniture like the Philippe Starck life-size mirror), artworks (some of them done by the homeowner's children), chandeliers and tall candelabras designed or modified by the owner herself, with the stripped-to-the-shell '50s architecture. The shoes were propped everywhere—on the mirror, sofa, commode. The shoe-ways ritual journey on a fine evening of good food and conversation—an exercise that's become a love art today.

Her shoes are 'sexy but not . . .

Breakingage C3

the family-owned Liberty Center Shoes stores—heads, aside to distill rendered in refined colors—six hot trademark. Clients can visit the showroom and choose the colors, heels and materials for their shoes. By word of mouth, women, from the young to the sophisticated, took fancy on her styles.

It takes three weeks to produce the shoes, given the detailed headwork. Although she hasn't recovered her capital, business has been steady. The advantage of custom-made shoes is that there is neither inventory nor headaches related to deadlines and retail quotas.

One of her first clients was Vicky Puddles, the stylish and vivacious mother of her boyfriend, Aldo Claparols. Vicky bought nude shoes, accentuated by a cascade of shells on the vamp.

Expression

When she presented her line to the investors, Joanna sounded like a marketer, waxing poetic about the emotions and concepts behind the styles. In practical women, the shoes are just outlets for leather and plastic heels, encrusted with fine beadwork. To Joanna, the shoes are an expression of her identity.

"I started designing shoes because I wanted to be my own person." She likened the styles to her diary entries, culled from personal experiences or influences from the environment.

She recalled how the sight of a rainbow after a dreary weather saved her from the drudgery of dentistry: "It was like a symbol of hope." Inspired by this, Joanna fashioned a mule with rainbow straps and a knotted bow, and called it "Iris."

Sketching snippets of "Cirque du Soleil" on YouTube, Joanna lunged to see a live performance. The "Cirque du Soleil" shoe captures the whimsical spirit of the circus with black and white stripes on the vamp and gold and brown zigzag patterns on the side.

A pair of Ilois charcoals Gene Simmons, the iconic rocker of Kiss, notorious for his blood-red tongue that stuck out against chalk-white foundation, and the eye-patched rebel/dark-hearted patterns. The "Black-and-White" flat pointy tips, contrasting stripes on the vamp and pyramid patterns, much like his boots. The sole is bright red.

Freudian symbol

The shoes can get really sexy with openwork mules with four-inch stilettos. "I imagine this is a woman who swaggers more. It's sexy like a sweet," said Joanna, referring to the partly exposed upper that reveals the woman's arch. For her, the shoe is a Freudian symbol of what women like her desire. "I want to be sexy but not scandalous."

The styles could be as quiet yet still rich, such as the style "Buddha" flats lined with beads and pearl-tassel with a Buddha head and tassel at the back, or the "Harmony" flats in jade green/hot-up by a beaded black and white Yin and Yang symbol.

"Harmony" reflects the state of her relationship with workers and staff. She admitted that it was a humbling experience to adjust to the Filipino mentality where staunch interpersonal relations drives the work output.

"Learning how to deal with people has been the best education I've had," said Joanna on her current highlights.

A 23-year-old like Joanna faces life with idealism and bravado. That's the age when nothing seems impossible and you can pretty much get your way. After a year of being in the business, she's more confident about her product. "I'm proud to say that I'm finally a designer," declared Joanna.

(For appointments call 09153178753 or 334-5648 loc. 102. Located at Lilcon & Co., Liberty Center, 312 Shaw Blvd. Mandaluyong City.)

OLYMPIA. Satin in ivory/tan, silver and gold, are a tribute to the Olympics.

HARMONY. Green flats with a Yin and Yang symbol on the side

BLACK AND WHITE. Inspired by rocker Gene Simmons' look

BUDDHA. Satin shoe with Buddha-head and tassel

CIRQUE DU SOLEIL. Black and white stripes

CASSANDRA, a seductive stiletto for evening

LITTON with Aldo Claparols

CITY LADY STOCKINGS AND KATE TORRALBA GIVE THE LADIES A LEG UP

It was an afternoon of leg love

LEGS RULED THE RUNWAY as City Lady, a pioneer brand in the hosiery industry, together with one of Manila's most fashion-forward designer Kate Torralba, successfully launched their new line of hip, ultra-stylish stockings, Leg Love. Kate Torralba for City Lady stockings.

"I've had this love affair with stockings for the longest time," she confessed. "Stockings really do add that oomph that matches my larger-than-life style."

Held at the Conservatory of Peninsula Manila Hotel in Makati, a Moulin Rouge-inspired fashion show drew appreciative cheers from the full-house crowd. The fresh look of the stockings provided a new way of looking at what many women consider as mere undergarments.

To underscore this point, the stage was set up to such a way that only the legs of models were revealed... seeming, of course, the Leg Love line.

Leg Love: Kate Torralba for City Lady is an exclusive and exciting collection of fun and flirty stockings. With Torralba's flair for the avant-garde, the line offers not one but three outstanding collections: textured neutrals, interestingly colored solids and the limited edition Leg Love prints that are very IT.

"Leg Love is for women of all ages and sizes. It's made for every lady who is hip, confident and not afraid to be bold in her tongue-in-cheek. They're party stars of themselves and don't hesitate to be fashion standouts," Torralba said.

Gracing the event were Manila Bay Hosiery Mills general manager Arthur Tinoco Jr., MBHMI Designer Caroline Kung, Audrey Tinoco, marketing manager of Rins Philmerin, Mr. and Mrs. Arturo Tinoco Sr., Geraldine Tinoco, Alaine Reyes, Alick Mella and Grace Ty as well as MM executives Shirley Ty, Katrina Yu, Bernie Ngo, Carol Mahusay and Lia Cobeyen.

Celebrities like Mitoko Quiambao and Ana Linnet were also on hand to witness the collection's unveiling.

Leg Love: Kate Torralba for City Lady stockings are available at all leading SM Department stores and at Kate Torralba's boutique in Makati.

THE THREE FLAVORS. Intermediate Leg Love stockings textured stockings in neutrals, interestingly colored solid and the limited-edition Leg Love print stockings by Kate Torralba for City Lady stockings

SPECIAL shirt for Filipino fans

Wear your support for Pacquiao

ALL EYES WILL BE ON Philippines' pride Manny Pacquiao on Dec. 6 as he takes on the biggest fight of his life against one of boxing's biggest icons, Oscar "Golden Boy" de la Hoya.

To mark this, Nike has released the new Manny Pacquiao Nike Fi-Fit T-shirt.

It has the Philippine flag's blue and red and an identity even with Pacquiao's graphic image.

"The Heart of a Champion" and "Four Titles: One Man" read the fronts, while "Eat, do it" is printed on the back.

"Manny has reached great heights as an athlete and has become an icon in the international boxing scene," says Mau Dolingon, Nike Philippines country marketing manager. "On to third year of partnership, Nike remains proud and privileged to have him on the company's roster of athletes. Nike is in full support of what could probably be the greatest fight of his life."

Nike has also launched a national campaign to rally the country behind Pacquiao. Billboards are up in Edsa Guadalupe and CL Boni can express their support at nike.com.ph.

For more information on the campaign, log on to www.nike.com.ph.

The Nike Manny Pacquiao T-shirt is available in red and white at Nike stores nationwide.

Tippi's book is not by the book

By Yael Buencamino
Contributor

Get into the quirky mind of the creative designer

SO WHO SAYS TRASHY CAN'T be elegant? Or ugly can't be beautiful?" asks Tippi Ocampo in her appropriately titled "Not by the Book: Fashioning Design."

Indeed, the fabric swoop, corset-like bands and eye-lasciveness of this book, which force you to open it from behind, intimate a quirkiness readers will encounter throughout. The book takes us on a jaunty ride through Ocampo's creative process.

The text is sparse, written alternately in handwritten script and book text, like a scrapbook. We feel privy to the inner workings of the designer's mind. It is part picture book, part personal musing, part design philosophy.

"Where is inspiration found?" she poses. "I find it in the stuffed carts of cabbage at the market, I glimpse it in the dancing dresses and quilted coats of a jeepney."

Visual delight

A visual delight that shows the images that have inspired her, the sketches turning inspirations to fashion and the dresses that they have become.

Not a recipe-like how-to-design book saying "Project Runway" participants are probably searching for (though there is a little section on how to make a lace thing), but much more useful for those trying to find their own voices of style—a guide for seeing and appreciating the qualities of that which surrounds us.

Ocampo teaches the reader to see the world through fresh eyes and withdraws the everyday experiences and reflections of the individual as design inspiration. She gently suggests that we reevaluate our aesthetic judgments.

By showing how the corrugated metal shooting of a shanty inspired her to create studded tweedlike dresses, she playfully pushes the limits of what we accept in the visually interesting and worthy of a designer's attentions.

Antithesis

It is the sublimity of makeovers and design features that fill magazines and lifestyle channels, which dictate to the viewer what is beautiful and instruct them how to copy it, for a fraction of the cost.

"This is about deciding for yourself what is beautiful and getting others to see it, too. The book makes clear that design for Ocampo is not about the glamour of couture, it is about reflecting and translating the aesthetic of the Filipino, as seen in the stuff that surrounds us, into fashion.

All throughout the little book (it's only about 55 pages) with big ideas, the book's designers Cyn-Nix Barcena-Arre, Liesa Gutierrez and Chenggay Labrador ably combine the words and photos to forcefully convey Ocampo's thoughts.

Beneath the photo of a church's stained-glass window and image of a saint, the text reads, "Vision is not a mirage. It is an image that is unconvincing and that we owe only with our eyes closed."

Not quite what you would expect from a designer who makes dresses that look like ice-cream sundaes, but then again, the title told us that already.

Pizza place to raffle off Gucci bags

PIZZA HUT HOLDS IT'S BIG IT Indoor promo, which will raffle off five Gucci bags.

Buyers of any of the four Viva Pizza flavors will get a participant card that indicates a unique promo code. Go online and fill up the online promo coupon found at pizzahut.com.ph.

Pizza Hut's Viva Italian pizzas come in four variants: Bianca, with all-Italian ingredients; the creamy Milano; the vegetarian Florentine and the unique Sicily, topped with creamy white sauce and a hefty dose of shrimp.

Deadline is Dec. 15.

Holiday line plays up ruffles

GIRL KNOWN FOR CASUAL CLOTHING and accessories that express one's personal style, features ruffles aplenty in its holiday line.

It has trendy ruffle-trimmed tiers with ruffle link, classic striped shirt with contrasting ruffles in front, polka-dot V-neck shirt with just the right amounts of ruffles, and vibrant plaid skirts.

Other details in the wide selection of wearer tops include eyelets, shirring, and balloon and flutter sleeves.

These can be paired with classy cargo cropped pants, harem-front skirt, tuxedo trousers and trendy wide-leg trousers.

For the glam-up look, there's the ruffle-neck shift dress one can wear from day to night, or fancy linen wrap dress with dripping fabric and sexy neckline.

For cool weather, there's the button-up ruffle zipper or sweater dress, and sexy vests, turtlenecks, peasant and puffer jackets, with details such as ribbons, polka-flower-lined pockets.

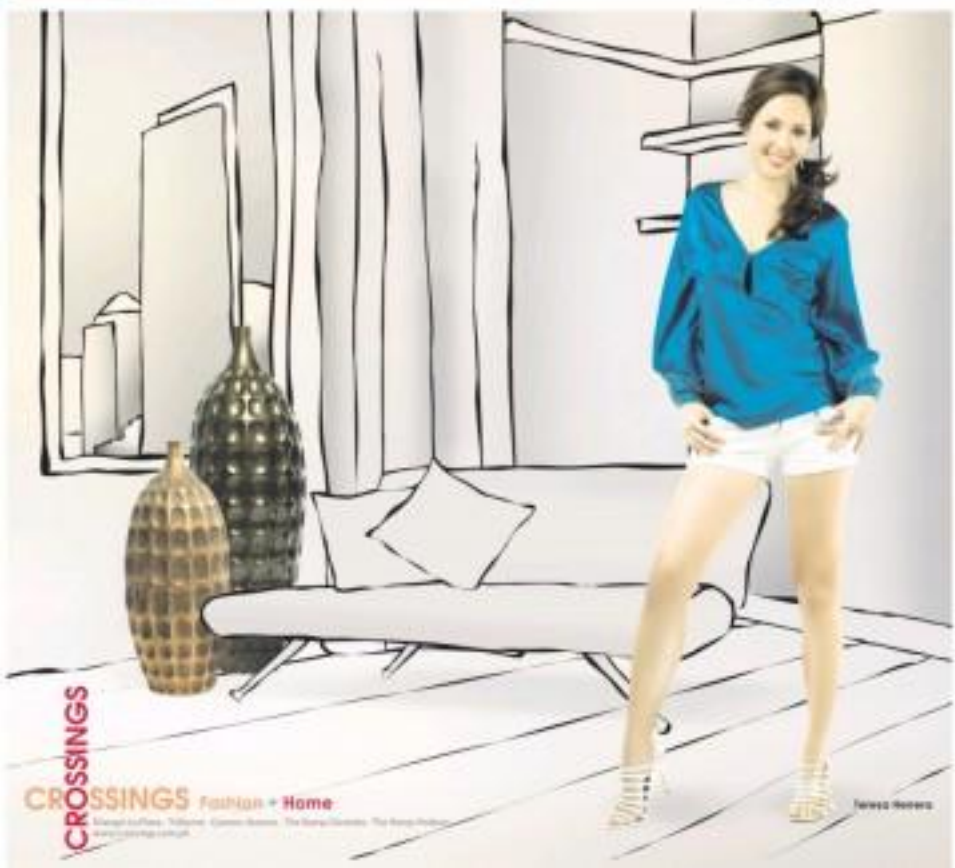
For accessories, there are updated wood bags, ballet flats and scarves in cartoon prints.

Mix-ons layer to on and experiment with different looks. There are crew-neck and short-sleeve cotton shirts with graphic designs. They are long-sleeve dressy and waffle tees in solid colors and stripes, plus details such as ribbed necklines and cuffs. Complementing them are a skinny cadet cap, leather hat, textured scarf, saddle bag.

Perfect for the Christmas season are wool and hooded blazers, military jackets, full-zip and V-neck sweaters plus cardigans.

For corporate wear, there are cotton classic long-sleeve sweaters shirts to be paired with either basic pants or chino and tailored fit pinstripe pants.

Kitap is exclusively distributed in the Philippines by Casual Clothing Specialists Inc. (CCSI), member of the Ramon's Group of Companies, and is available at Glorietta 4, Trilliana, Mall of Asia, Shangri-La Plaza Mall, Bonifacio High Street and Robinsons Manila Midtown Wing.



SEIKO: Clooney, with Urquhart, signs the box of Omega Seamaster Planet Ocean watch. This was raffled off at the watch boutique's opening in Greenbelt 5 (unknown Clooney, unfortunately).

LIFESTYLE Fashion&Beauty

Luxury watch brand opens second RP branch

Omega remains optimistic despite the global downturn

By Cheche V. Pleral

"WHAT ECONOMY?" ASKED Stephen Urquhart, deadpan, at the opening of the Omega flagship boutique in Greenbelt 5, Makati, on Monday.

Urquhart, president of the 148-year-old Swiss watchmaker, was visiting the Philippines for the first time to inaugurate the store. Omega's second in the country. The shop is one of eight luxury watch boutiques opened this week by the Luxottica Group at Greenbelt 5, in a watch hub now it calls Timezone.

"Everybody's talking about doom and gloom," he continued. "Will it turn to that everybody was wrong on the way down because nobody foresaw what happened." At

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AMOY VIP, and his mother Paula's Vazquez Prada

VISITING from Madrid, speculators Cristina Soriano with Pilar Rosas and stylist Gina Rosas

CIVIC-ORIENTED ex-senator Ana M. Zobel de Ayala and philanthropist-arts patroness Imelda Cojuangco, with the inspiration and organizer behind the successful 25th season of Ballet Philippines, Sofia Zobel Elizalde

At Tiffany's, men buy Christmas gifts for wife and 'girlfriend'

BALLET PHILIPPINES (BP) AND Philippine Tatler magazine partnered with Stella Grand Premier Glitz and renowned Sofitel to present the magnificent "Noel Beginnings" gala.

The benefit performance and fundraiser celebrated BP's 35th successful season, duhhhgo.

The Cultural Center of the Philippines (CCP) was filled with philanthropists, dignitaries, tycoons and tsismis, ballet lovers and benefactors such as the ultra-glam Imelda Cojuangco, adorable Bea Medina Zobel and Ariana Zobel de Ayala, CCP president Nes Jardin, and the gala's super dedicated co-chairpersons Sofia Zobel Elizalde and Elaine Harden—all elegantly dressed in Filipiniana finery.

Aiming too soon for the gala was BP honorary chairperson, New York-based Elizabeth Inciong-Dolinich, former BP soloist and the only Filipina principal dancer at the prestigious Alvin Ailey Dance Company. She passionately thanked the audience for supporting BP ignoring her summer, the world-renowned Alvin Ailey. "Dance is for the people and should be delivered back to them."

The performance then opened with Riley's night Creatures, especially arranged by Renan Dolinich, to the chi-chi crowds thunderous applause and hoots, duhhhgo.

The company's new team of brilliant artistic directors, Maria Ivan Ill and Alan Hamilton, respectively choreographed the following compelling pieces that composed the evening's breathtaking repertoire.

Overflowing champagne and generous cocktails from Sofitel were served at the CCP lobby and mezzanine, which were decorated with stunning life-size photographs of dancers in motion and gorgeous flowers installations by Margarita Fores of Good & Plenty.

Apart the fantastic happening, Sofitel host of an intimate party for the gala's generous sponsors at the hip Le Bar. The chic invitees were shuttled there by BMW's elegant fleet of limousines, while Otto gifted 20 of the gala's exuberant sponsors with the complete fragrance line on hint, duhhhgo.

Charmed by Tiffany's

The chic same alone brings back memories of one of the best, lovable movies of our time, "Breakfast at Tiffany's," with the unmistakable Audrey Hepburn in the star, duhhhgo. Now, in its posh new home at

MARICRIS Contreras-Estrel

STREET and fellow Co with Sharmaine and Harrold: Mr. Israel, Kit and Fernando Zobel, Karen Xarnes, Ina Ayala, Missy Ayala and Fred Ayala

world-class Romero's Malent, Tiffany Special, an inc. created lyrical chemists and hostess to Tiffany & Co.'s new collection, "Charmed by Tiffany."

Beaming around, I couldn't get my eyes off Tiffany's enchanted sterling silver jewelry and iconic charms, eye-catching gleaming silver and jewelry, pedestrian.

Romero's creative direction and prince of color to create Tiffany's newly launched Tiffany's famed collections. The Tiffany collection came in the center of the room, giving us the opportunity to look, select, buy or just drool over its many charms.

With endless flowing wine and sparkling champagne, one slightly buzzed up wouldn't man told me, "I'm sure this Christmas, many men I know will have divided gifts. One for their wives and the other more expensive ones for their girl-friends." Well, that's the law of one world, it's on you, palanggas!

Check out Tiffany's exquisite collections exclusively distributed by Rosario's.

MARICRIS Sirao and Marissa Hernando

LIZETTE B. Cojuangco and Margie Moran Floirendo

GLAM tandems Vicky Zobel and her daughter Stephanie Z. Beltran.

WITHOUT BATTING AN EYELASH Maurice Arcadio De Borres by Alex Van Hagen using YSL Pixito Solutions

Gourmet tour

It was my gastronauch's dream come true, duhhhgo, when the elegant Itoh Thani Manila (ITMN) treated guests to a grand gourmet tour.

He deceivingly enjoyed specialty dishes offered by the popular Japanese restaurant, Umu Sensaweng, one of the late Royal Thai restaurants, and Tosca, the superb Italian resto.

At Umu, Gilbert Uy, director of food and beverage, gave us an overview. Start-stop was the excellent Benjarong, where everyone ring into the food relief, Tosca Time Grog, and the popular Pinal Thai.

And the grand finale was at Tosca, where we sipped Barrazo Ruby wines and tried the a-cello-ke Seafood Lamb Tortello, served with Toasted Bina Bean, among other yummies.

Aptly that gastronomic journey, we had a tour of DFS' Fitness Center and Dreamers Spa, the signature spa in Itoh Thani Manila. The latter was highlighted by a Thai massage demonstration, which was what just we

BALLET Philippines' incredible dancers

MARICRIS Mulingit Vargas

needed after all that tender of calorific luxuriously delights.

But the main highlight was, nonetheless, a raffle for an overnight stay in the Junior Suite with breakfast and a Dreamers Massage. As always, everyone left with a bag full of goodies. It's so very Itoh Thani, duhhhgo.

MOI wearing a James Bond Goldfinger Swatch and getting hip and cool with a BMW

UST Christmas concert

According to D. Augustine, "He who sings well, prays twice." What better time to sing well than in anticipation of Christmas, palanggas?

So on Dec. 4, the University of Santo Tomas (UST) will hold its 6th Alaska Christmas Concert at 7 p.m. at the UST Chapel.

With the UST Band and the UST Symphony Orchestra under the conductor, Prof. Bienvenido Ramos, the UST Conservatory of Music will present its pool of fantastic music and performing talents.

Michael Antinio will be the conductor for the UST Pinoy Orchestra, duhhhgo.

The concert features four top soprano from UST Ms. Anniepolina Silverio, Thea Perez and Nimrod Sison will perform songs arranged by Prof. Ramos.

Meanwhile, the divine Rachelle Garcellini will sing songs by Handel.

The renowned pianist, Dr. Raul Sunico, dean of the UST Conservatory of Music, actors, will be the grand finale member.

This Christmas Concert Gala, palanggas, bids to raise funds for the Pontifical University, specifically the UST Museum, the oldest school-based museum in the country. It also aims to raise scholarship grants for students of the UST Conservatory.

Marieta Cardelus Zobel, co-host, and Rev. Fr. Isidro Abaño, OP, UST secretary-general, are the mega co-chairpersons of this cash Christmas concert.

For info, call 7331544 (Odelia), 7609727; or e-mail gelmezzalli@mail.com.edu.ph.

MARICRIS Contreras-Zobel, co-chairperson of UST Christmas Concert; at right, Rev. Fr. Isidro Abaño, OP, UST Secretary-General and co-chairperson of UST Christmas Concert

BRILLIANT Executive Vice President for Stores Specialties Inc., Annie Huang, with Leah Reyes and Ayala's Jane Hernandez

SUPER couple Emilio and Jinky Reynoso

DTMN's Assistant Manager of Marketing Communications Lisa Ventura

DENISE Nail Spa Manager Angiana Chmielewski with Miss Bangsa, Monia Mazocheva, DTMN's Director of Rooms Lea Barroso and DFIT Manager Fiona Valenzuela

KATHERINE Tan and Helen Lim

MILY Reyes, Connie Alberto and Jojo Crisologo

DTMN's CDMA Annie with Christine Sayers, Dang Garcia and Bum Rosario

WORLD trendsetters Mariano Carmona with Gerhard Knopp, handset PHI president and sewing company of Itoh Thani Manila, and executive Jojo Zabarte

VICTOR Valbuena with Cristelle Lorinda, Marites Tantoco-Valbuena, Big Boy and Dindee Chanyo

JASMINE and Gene Dargan

DTMN's Gilbert Uy and Nora Osano

Joy and good cheer for all

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Luxury watch brand opens second RP branch

OMEGA Seamaster Planet Ocean in steel (left) and sand-pink leather strap

OMEGA Constellation Ladies' model, limited-edition Beijing Olympics Collection

From page B1

ner a pause, he smiled. "I just hope everybody's serving on the soup up."

Urquhart had just come from Japan for a James Bond-Omega event the day before. He did acknowledge that his company to some degree, has felt the effects of the financial crisis.

"The countries where there's a big link to credit buying, the business is a bit affected," he said. "But the consumer is still quite buoyant. I'm not saying they're oblivious, but a bit more careful... Good thing the world leaders are acting in a synchronized way as this has affected the whole world."

As for Omega, he said they're continuing with their own strategy, which is to accentuate the company's activities.

"This is a great opportunity. When we came out of this situation, we will be stronger than we were," Pond, he added, is the new Greenbelt boutique, a huge move to open next year in New York City's Fifth Avenue, and the Japan event geared by new Bond girl Olga Kurylenko. "We now, we're researching the stories."

Omega continues to be a dominant player in the luxury watch trade, to small thanks to its "pretty good choice" of celebrity brand ambassadors.

STEPHEN Urquhart, Omega president

Big role

At the opening, the boutique ratified all 9 Seamaster Planet Ocean watch with its box autographed by actor George Clooney. Its other "faces" include five-moda Glee champion Michael Schumacher, supermodel Cindy Crawford, Oscar-winning actress Nicole Kidman and, of course, its longstanding ties to 007.

At the Greenbelt event, Urquhart cut the ribbon with local show biz couple Lucy Torres and Richard Gomez.

"History plays a big role in our DNA," Urquhart said. "We have a very rich history. Omega has done everything. We've been to the moon, to the bottom of the ocean, the Olympics, aviation, precision movements, timekeeping records... It's a vast business. And we have quite a young image, especially with James Bond."

While it's 50-50 male-female in total sales, he said Omega is facing a challenge on how it can build a better group of star female-market.

"To be honest, in terms of image, it's still more male, although Cindy Crawford and Nicole Kidman are helping a lot," he said. "We still have more room to make our ladies' collection even more appealing. Problem is, the ladies are buying men's watches [for themselves] more and more. It's difficult to say what a lady wants," he added to much exasperation.

Despite the odds, Urquhart is optimistic about smaller markets like the Philippines.

"It's the pioneering spirit," he said. "This stuff here, for all I know, I could be sitting in Singapore or London. You can't tell the difference. The average income is lower than in some other countries. But the potential is tremendous."

OMEGA De Ville Ladies' jewelry watch in 18k yellow gold or stainless steel with diamonds

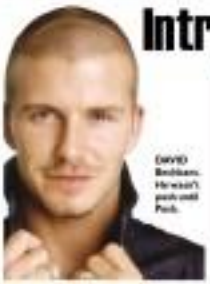
OMEGA Seamaster Planet Ocean Divers

OMEGA James Bond 007 watch

OMEGA brand ambassador George Clooney

LIFESTYLE Fashion & Beauty

Introduce your men to grooming essentials



DAVID Beckham. He won't pack cold. Pack.

Make him feel comfortable enough to talk to you about his beauty concerns

MOST MEN I KNOW ARE NOT confident enough to go to the department store and look for products that address their grooming needs. They succumb and up using the products of the women in their lives—and that can be very wasteful.

KNOCKOUT! Ria Francisca-Prieto

I'm sure soon women can relate to this—if you live with at least one male member in the house, be it your brother or husband, they have at one point used your products without you knowing.

I'm not saying they are thieves, only that they'd rather not roll to because they think it's too vain if they concern themselves with their skin.

A Christmas gift can actually teach the man in your life how to use the right skin care products. It's a good time to ask/treat what you think are his beauty taboos (it means to skincare/hygiene. Plus, when he has his own, he won't need to touch your beauty essentials anymore.

When choosing a product for your man, first [illegible] Does he have dry, normal, or oily and sensitive skin? If the skin feels tight and itchy, then he has dry skin. On the other hand, for everyone who has oily skin has oily, but the skin is always shiny.

Teach him about the [illegible] I've noticed that the less people know about a certain product, the more generous they are in using them. In fact, a little goes a long way, and using a lot doesn't really make a difference.

Application is key. Teach your man how to apply moisturizers and eye cream properly. Also, when it comes to body oils and lotions, emphasize that he should apply those when skin is still damp from the shower.

Make sure your [illegible] enough to talk to you about his beauty concerns. A good way is to ask him what he think for month. Now, if he doesn't open up, seize the initiative and buy him essential male products. When he gets used to them, believe me, he won't be dipping into your beauty buys again.

Places you should check out: Bench, Khell's, Shoes for Men, The Body Shop, Clinique.

Get out of the beauty rut

Be brave—experiment with new colors

NEW YORK—I HAVE A confession to make: I don't always follow The Beauty Rules. I sometimes put on makeup in public (yes "post powder and lipstick") and I don't always "throw out old makeup."

Muriel Chua, Beauty in the Big Apple

No, what to do if you've fallen into a monotonous routine? I'm still in the middle of swapping out of mine, but here are three starter tips:

Purge, then splurge

That's from no less than top beauty guru Bobbi Brown. It does make sense to make space for new items before bringing in new loot. Think of it as the equivalent of de-cluttering your closet to make room for new clothes.

The sequence is actually interchangeable...since you have your new items, you can quickly edit out what you no longer need.

Either way, resist the urge to hoard old and new items regardless. If there are too many products in your drawer or too many throughout several makeup bags, you'll forget to use them.

Also, the fewer products you tackle on a daily basis, the faster your pilfering-and-purge, and you end up with more time to try out new looks without the hassle of rummaging through items that no longer match your new mash.

Go back to basics

When you're stuck in a rut, it's good to release basic makeup lessons, such as proper concealer or skincare products and finding the right concealer and base tone.

Which is what I did. First order of business at the MAC store was to find a good makeup remover for waterproof mascara, gentle face wipes, and then the perfect shade of flawless Mineralcomplexion concealer and Studio Fix powder foundation.

Brushing up and reviewing with the pros is like pressing the "reset" button on your beauty routine, and you learn something new everyday.

According to Enrique, if you're prone to dark undereye circles, a pink-based concealer would camouflage perfectly, while a yellow-based foundation would even out dissimilar skin tone on the cheekbones.

I'd have a yellow-based product on your most dull skin tone. I tried the pink-yellow tandem recommended by Enrique, and discovered she was actually right.

Gone were the gray tones from using the wrong concealer.

Experiment!

Jana Infante checking out (and measuring the potential damage to my wallet) Enrique's lineup of Pixiliffic Eye Liner trio in Silverline, a sizzling cobalt shade. The perfectly contoured wing-tip she created with it made my eyes pop.

Similarly, an intriguing color or a shade you don't normally wear may just be what you need to breathe life into a lackluster makeup routine. Vibrant jewel tones like emerald, sapphire and aqua look stunning on Asian skintones.

And if you're hesitant or actually wear them to work, be brave. One swipe of electric blue liner on top lash/lines is the perfect accessory under eyeglasses. The effect is like wearing colored contact lenses, only better (and more subtle). Give it a shot and see the difference.

Muriel Chua is the Jessie battery editor of Cosmopolitan, Seventeen and CBC Magazine. She is now based in New York City. Visit AgirlAbroad.com

GET A beauty boost from new makeup finds: MAC Studio Fix Powder Plus Foundation in NC.35, Pixiliffic Eyeliner Gel in Waterline, Nail Lacquer in Reappearance, #262 Eyeliner Brush and Select Moisturecover in NW22.

High-impact look, low-maintenance makeup

This season, keep the focus on the eyes and go easy on the lipstick

BEAUTY must-try: Wing it!

WITH THE SEASON jam-packed with festivities, it may seem like the perfect time to go all out and experiment with different makeup looks. But, more often than not, we would much rather go to a party and forget we even have makeup on.

Kelly Mea, Web's all the rage

High-maintenance makeup can be a letdown at a big celebration.

You may take the high point of a party if you're too busy going back and forth to the bathroom, touching up your makeup.

The key is to go for a high-impact look that's easy to maintain. Keep that focus on the eyes and go easy on the lipstick. Here's how to get the look:

Eyes

"To get party-ready eyes, sweep a light shade of eye shadow on your lids up to your brow bone (try Bobbi Brown eye shadow in Sunset and define your crease with a wash in medium shade," says makeup artist Pia Reyes.

"If you wish to use shimmer on your eyes, make sure to use the ones with very fine particles for a subtle highlight."

You may top it off with either pencil or liquid eyeliner, depending on how steady your hand is and how comfortable you are using liquid liner.

"If you choose to wear pencil eyeliner, line both your top and bottom lash lines and buildup the inside of the eyes to intensify the look," suggests make-up artist Arnie Orong.

"For liquid eyeliner, line only the top part of your lash line and build-up for more definition (try Bobbi Brown Waterproof Liquid Liner)."

"Define the lower lash line with a taupe-colored eye shadow to make your eyes look bigger," adds Reyes.

Finish with two to three coats of mascara or put in false eyelashes instead.

Face

"Holiday makeup is usually more shimmery. Choose subtle sparkles that come in a blush (try Nars Blush in Orgasm), rather than big glitters that can look tacky. But for ladies with oily skin, it may be better to stick to a matte finish powder and blush," says Orong.

Eyebrows

The eyebrows must be defined to balance out the strong eyes. "Try a taupe eyebrow pencil, in pencil or powder form, for a subtle but well-shaped look," says Reyes.

Lips

A nude shade of lipstick topped with gloss suits the look perfectly. "It brings out the intensity of the eyes," explains Orong.

You need not bring your entire inlay kit to a party. Bring only the essentials, so you have the freedom to move and have fun..."A[n] essential for me is my lip gloss (for a quick rematch after meals!), and a small pack of oil-control tissues," says Reyes.

Orong adds, "a powder compact may also be useful after a few hours at a party."

Sneak peek

By Bianca Fernandez
Contributor

TANIA CORTEZ
26 years old

Hobbies: philosophy; Quality most admired: Sincerity; Bag: Alexander Wheaton.

Wheels in her bag? A Chanel No.5 travel-size perfume spray, Gucci wallet, Mont by Marc Jacobs foldable umbrella, 8 gb U2BS memory stick, Herbal pen, Sony Ericsson cell phone, iPhone, Aquaint bathtub, makeup bag and concealer.

+ Tutorial: Laura Mercier eye concealer: I swear by this. It totally conceals what needs to be concealed.

+ Laura Mercier blush in Blushing Apple: This gives me the flushed-y natural look I need for my dark complexion with a Tan Cheek tinted brush.

+ Shiseido loose powder with Bisou bronzer.

+ Mark MAC color eyeliners: Love it because it's totally water proof and a beautiful eyeliner brush/applicator.

+ Benefit lip gloss: Dark berry color

+ Nars bronzer: One of my favorites

TANYA and what she carries around

Red-hot lips for red-hot glam

Sharon Stone and Cate Blanchett are among the glamazons who carry the look with elegance and attitude

RED LIPSTICK IS THE POWER players of makeup. While dainty, shiny lip gloss may be fun and fresh, nothing makes nails an explosive statement as dramatic red lips.

Isabel Rivera, Bankruptcy Diva

This timeless makeup look is synonymous of sultriness and glamour. It was the trademark of Marilyn Monroe in the '50s and Madonna in the '80s and '90s. Now Diva Vox "Irene" savors the proud red banner for our generation.

The red temper curves seen on all women in red lip-stick—Sharon Stone and Cate Blanchett among the glamazons who carry it with elegance and attitude.

Young princesses of counter-culture like Christina Aguilera and Gwen Stefani also incorporate their iconic videos with ruby reds.

Whatever the case, red lipstick is obviously no passing trend. It's a timeless look that communicates strength, sexuality and confidence.

Red-hot tips

1. When wearing red lipstick, keep eye makeup to a minimum. Opt for eyeliner and loads of lashes, but put more emphasis on a groomed brow.

2. When choosing between matte and glossy, keep in mind that glossy and lips can look more rhythm [illegible]—dainty and kissable—than solely sophisticated.

3. To keep red lips if you have sensitive skin, or dry skin tendencies, as they will emphasize the skin's irritations/dryness.

4. Consider shades that have blue undertones, as they tend to look more flattering on most skin tones.

5. After outing or drinking, don't reapply lipstick. Stained lips [illegible] and may look unsightly.

Makeup pro Barbie Chase is no stranger to applying red both on herself and on her subjects. She shares her insights on using the right shade of red for your skin tone.

"I love wearing red lipstick," she says. "On myself, I use Chanel Rouge Underwater Lip, which has a purple tinge. This tone really suits people with very fair skin, like myself."

But my favorite red lipstick for Filipinas is MAC Lipstick in Ruby Woo or Under All Lashes in Lick.

Try to find shades of red/pink orange with a hint of yellow. Colors on the warmer tone flatter a medium-to-dark skintone, as it's suitable for Asian skin."

MODEL wearing Shu Uemura Rouge Crème matte #01 in 634

DiTA Von Teese

Holiday scents here and abroad

IN ES MALLS I AUTOMATICALLY LOOSE for the cosmetic items and body care products not available in the Philippines.

My first stop was Bath & Body Works where I hoarded the limited-edition Christmas special Vanilla Bean Noel line, which was a very-foody vanilla even more potent than Cinnabon's now-discontinued Vanilla Bun de Toilette.

I also liked the Twisted Peppermint, which smells like Candy Canes: a peppermint scent with a slight vanilla run.

The shea laundry-inspired Cotton Blossom (US$ four but been discontinued and replaced with Sea Island Cotton/SIC). Sorbane of you who love the flowers may loved the five B&BW Oil modes you find at PX stores inexcusable. SIC is similar to CB but has a stronger detergent and less green notes.

Local equivalents

Wishing within a rather tight Christmas shopping budget and sourcing something Philippine-made to help our industry?

The closest local brands I can think of that come close to B&BW are Shearline by the lovely vanilla or creamy scents. Aside from its vanilla line, you may try out its Shea Shea body line, which has skin-whitening properties. It smells like milky rice pudding.

Also try the Coffee body line which really smells like freshly brewed coffee and has fat burning properties.

Island Girl's closest thing to a close scent is its Bamboo line, which can be used all year round. It's a fresh and simple scent as well.

Check out www.islandgirlstore.com. Order online or from their kiosks at Market! Market! and Greenbelt.

Dessert scents

If you want more varied dessert scents, check out Zest Zest cookies as it has recently come out with its Sparkling Sugar collection consisting of four variants.

Key Lime Pie is based on a famous Florida dessert: It combines tart green key limes with the comforting aroma of rich cream.

Pancawhite has but a sun-tipsized watermelon concoction laced with sugar and sprinkles of lemon juice.

Vanilla Ice Cream smells more like Peppermint Ice Cream because it is combines vanilla beans with lemon.

Cherry Cheesecake is not cherries mixed with vanilla and Creamy.

Those with a more grown-up taste may prefer the Cocktail collection, in which my personal favorites are the Malibu and Margarita (for women and the Mojito for men. They have very strong fresh-citrus notes.

Clarify the www.clarifymedia.com

Another Filipino brand

Just in time for the holidays, Brunk & Ivy another quality Filipino brand, has launched two skin serums: Succulent Apple, which is like the smell of a juicy and crisp green apple; and Spiced Orange, which combines orange with cinnamon.

Brunk & Ivy isn't quite as strong as Woods of Windsor's Orange Spice with cinnamon, but it is enough to wake you up.

Among the classic lines, Vanilla Vine is the best seller as it is a match for leopard Daniels and has been said to be a subtler version of Laura Mercier's. Sadly Vanilla Vine has no discounts—it only has shower gel, lotion and body scrubs.

An alternative scent note for those who don't like to smell like pastry is the Ginger Patch, which is a milder version of Original Ginger Essence. Ginger Patch has a skincare available.

You may order via www.brunkandivy.com. Check out locally at Rustan's Makati.

E-mail bivgenesis@yahoo.com.

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LIFESTYLE Fashion&Beauty
Editor Thelma Sioson-San Juan
Contributing Editors Apples Aberin-Sudhwani, Jenni Epperson and Ria Francisco-Prieto

Picks of the week

BO PINCE cabin

DUJIA bag organizer

ROMEN shower kit

DERBY diaper bag

Online shopping: http://www.nomadadventuregear.com

THE NAME OF THE SITE MAY BE A BIT DECEIVING—NOT everything sold here is adventure-related. Aside from basic backpacks and daypacks, there are stylish travel kits, accessories, totes and bags in a variety of fun, colorful prints.

The site not only caters to those who lead active lifestyles, but also to consumers who value travel—here's an urban adventurer or a laid-back trip to some sandy beach.

Check out some of the best-sellers: jelly bag organizers in colors and other cool prints, packing cubes that can help you keep your luggage neat and organized, and foldable shopping totes you can use to line of non-biodegradable plastic bags.

Enjoy a 15% discount from Nov 15-Jan 15.

TURQUOISE cocktail ring

SMOKEY quartz cocktail ring

Jewelry: One Gem by Anna Lloren

EXOTIC AND EARTHY YET THOroughly modern best describes model-turned-jewelry designer Anna Lloren's latest collection.

Imbued with subtle Asian touches, her designs always center around semi-precious stones set in silver, with a play on acrylic and crystal squares. Except for turquoise or amethyst, the pieces are mostly in neutral tones that can easily match any ensemble. If you're looking for bold pieces to dress up a basic wardrobe, check out Lloren's limited edition jewelry.

One Gem is available at TSU in the Powerplant Mall or at following bazaars: Ivana Bazaar, Intercontinental Hotel, Nov. 20; American Women's Bazaar, World Trade Center, Dec. 2; Women 7 Bazaar, Intercontinental Hotel, Dec. 6&7. Contact Lloren at 0917.853.5558 or 850.95.29. AM

AMETHYST pendants

YELLOW quartz cocktail ring

DRAGON black agate choker with silver detail

Survive the holidays in style

How about wearing something ordinary in an unexpected way?

THE HOLIDAYS ARE fast approaching, and with it a whole slew of merry-making. As fun and exciting as all these social activities are, they can also be space-eating.

Aside from preparing gifts, décor and even festive fare, you also have to come up with a wardrobe that will last you throughout the season.

To make holiday dressing a pleasure, more than a hunt, we've come up with a few tips:

Plan ahead

Before all the merry-making begins, make sure your *saler* are all getting your outfits cleaned or repaired. If you plan to shop for a new wardrobe, do this way before the Christmas rush—which means you're a tad late by now! It's also a good idea to schedule your hair color and cut, manicure and pedicure in advance.

Mix and match

APPLES' PICKINGS

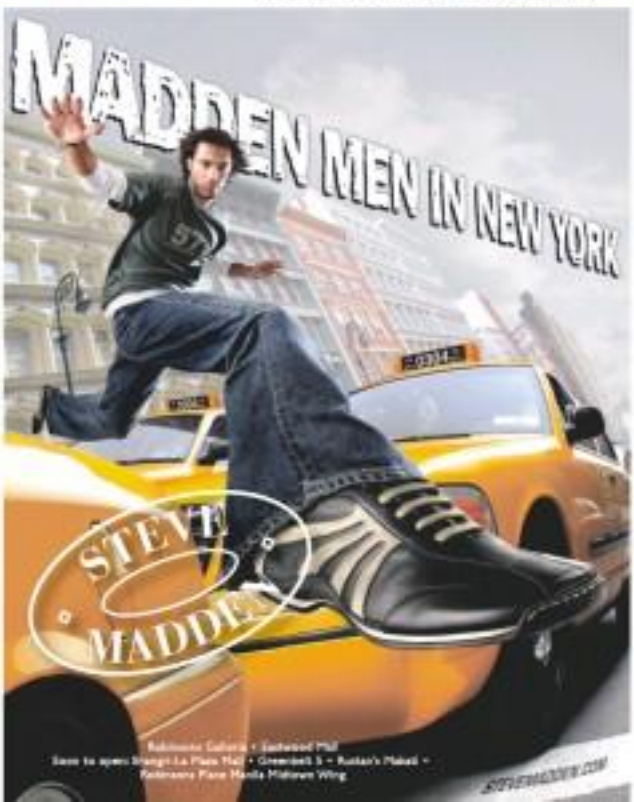
Apples Aberin-Sudhwani

Investing in a few multipurpose fall/winter pieces. A romantic Liz Hinan outfit here (she is big crush this season) can be worn in a variety of ways. Dress it down with faux jeans for a casual get-together, or glam it up with black satin trousers and diamond earrings for a dressier affair.

If you're on a budget, *makeover* old party dresses with the use of local, not-so-*elite* accessories, shoes and bags. You can also create different looks with the use of just one basic black dress. Wear it while entertaining at home by matching it with flat gold or silver sandals and bangles, or for more formal events by donning platform shoes and a party-perfect clutch.

Another way to create more options is by wearing something ordinary in an unexpected way. For example, raid your man's closet for an oversized basic white shirt. Wear it under

STRUCTURE and lace are just a couple of this season's trends



Survive the holidays in style

GET A FESTIVE look with the help of red lipstick and sparkly jewelry.

A PARTY-PERFECT clutch is a holiday must-have.

From page 1

toned with one side overlapping the other and use a wide belt to cinch it. Voila! Now there's something new and fresh. And you didn't even have to spend a cent.

Put on a face

Sometimes, all it takes is a little makeup to restore a flat-tire look. But lipstick should do the trick. Keep your eyes makeup-free and blush light and wear a creamy red lipstick for zoom. Make sure you pick a kind of red that suits your skin tone. As a general rule, blue-reds are for those with darker skin tones, orange-reds are for those with olive skin and true reds are for those with lighter skin.

Sparkly jewelries in pink or flesh tones are also perfect for the holidays. Dress glitters

pendent on shoulders, earrings and rings, and see yourself shine.

Check out the latest trends

It's always good to be aware of the latest fashion trends, but it's even better to know which ones suit your age, body type and personality. Sweaters, lace and dark romance are just some of the pervading trends this season.

As you get into the spirit of things, enjoy yourself. As the end of the day, or this Christmas season, what's important is that you spend it with the ones you love most—while dressed fashionably of course.

Email the author at ajhalim@inquirer.com.ph

DRESS your little black dress up or down with the use of casual things or sexy platform shoes.

Simplici-tee

Use this simple piece as building block of an unforgettable outfit

THE BLACK T-shirt

WHILE EXTREME dressing requires expertise, simplicity is sometimes more difficult to achieve—a fashion paradox similar to the way casual can be toxic, and high fashion can be low-maintenance.

Minimalist elegance, a concept introduced in the late '90s, is making a comeback to encapsulate looks around the globe. The motherto is all about clean, cool but impactful dressing.

The star of this outlook: the T-shirt. I've always loved how such a simple piece, in basic white, black or gray, can be the building block of an unforgettable outfit. Throw in some tailor-fitted jeans and T-shirt dresses, and why, there's an all-campaign right there with you as centerfold!

Among the inspirations for the outfits on these pages are the runway looks of designers Richard Nicoll and Michael Kors for their Spring 2009 ready-to-wear collections.

Nicoll exhibited the T-shirt-and-pants mix with the simple but ingenious pairing of separates—an oversize T-shirt tucked into a long, slim skirt. Kors showed worried tees paired with oversized cotton trousers, bathing suit bottoms and bed skirts.

Simple—but nothing subtle about that equation.

Another headline-hogging designer is Jason Wu, who's been compared to Oscar de la Renta and Carolina Herrera since his debut three years ago. His latest collection had a fresh, whimsy appeal by pairing a fashion stalwart T-shirt with an embroidered, dotted mini-pleat skirt. Very cool.

For this spread, I used the T-shirt line of LA-based 20-something designer Jessica Perez of the label Maxfield.

In 1994, Perez launched a T-shirt line that spelled casual luxe, which immediately gained loyal fans. His passion for mixed, stable architecture was influenced by years West Coast indoor-outdoor living, and the casual clothing he created embodied that spirit.

Perez's fashion philosophy became low-maintenance high fashion, which emphasized elegance and comfort, simplicity and sophistication. His goods are soon available at top specialty retailers such as Barney's New York, Bergdorf Goodman, Neiman Marcus. Locally, it is available at Rustan's.

E-mail the author at jbishop@inquirer.com.ph

Jessi J. Epperson

The white tee

THE COLORED tee

The gray tee

THE T-SHIRT dress

Winning golf-inspired holiday wear

MERCERIZED three-stripe knee shirt

JACK NICKLAUS'S FALL/WINter collection features handsome silhouettes of high-grade fabrics in eye-catching colors and novel designs.

Marrying comfort and style, the vibrant collection has a variety of deep tones and bright hues—royal blue, emerald green, navy, candy red, white, magenta, black, dusk and heather gray. Each item is a product of precision textile engineering, reflecting the essence of a legendary sportsman who stood for fine relaxed sports and life.

Notable is the wraparound jacket and trousers with high-performance features, which make them suitable for any sport. The jacket, with fold-and-go features, is for trousers or purple or the go.

Jack Nicklaus Golf apparel is also making a major push with its Performance 18 collection, an extensive offering of knit shirts in Film Fit and Regular fit using Cool Plus technology and Teflon-coated wind resistors as well.

Jack Nicklaus Lifestyle apparel is exclusively distributed by Rustan's Marketing Corp.

Available at Rustan's Makati, Shangri-La Mall, Alabang, Gateway Mall, Fairview Terraces, Cebu, SM Makati, Megamall, Clark and Landmark Trifecta.

Visit www.jacknicklauspare.com.

Urban unisex sandals

STORM sandals

STORM SANDALS are unisex ultra-lightweight EVA (Ethylene vinyl acetate) footwear appropriate for resort lifestyle, from flooded streets to walks or campuses. They come in a variety of combinations—Black, Black-Yellow, Black-Red, Avocado Green, Violet-White, Camo and White.

They can be mixed and matched with colorful socks, or if you choose, you can leave all bare. It is manufactured by Rhumba Enterprises Inc., the makers of the Sandugo adventure sandals.

Storm is available at SM, Rustan's, Landmark Trifecta, Gaisano, Forest Cebu, Island City Mall-Bohol, BQ-Bohol, LCC, and Tabal-Columbia Cotabato.

It is also available at Chris Sports, Hahn, Olympic Village, Pro-line, Royal Sporting House, Sports Central, Tokyo Sports, Sports Hub-Sta Rosa and Team Sports. Outdoor shops that sell Storm include Camp Sandugo-Manila Market, Rhumba Adventure-Tiffinna, Sandugo Adventure-Festival Mall Alabang and Imanne Resto.

Available in all Watsons, Robinsons, Mercury Drug stores, Shopwise, Gaisano, Ever Bilena Direct Sales Dealers and at leading department stores nationwide.

Dreamy romantic looks

Love is in the air at SM as the romantic look makes a comeback with lighter-than-air fabrics that float, flirt and flatter.

The romantic look, after all, is a fashion tale as old as time, one that still tugs at the heart in today's tech-savvy world. There's the dreamy boho vibe in soft fabrics and feminine silhouettes that trace the body. Floral-print tops with butterfly sleeves highlight this romantic fashion story, while billowy blouses and long dresses in checks and plaids give it a classic edge. The collection is available at the Ladies Wear Department of all SM stores

THE LOVE dress

PAINTERLY blouse

SHEER slim

ROMANTIC maxi halter

BARELY blues

Panasonic
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AVON Holiday jewelry

Multiple Christmas collections combine lingerie and jewelry

AVON FASHIONS' HOLIDAY LINgerie Collection is showcased in its three sub-brands—Classic, Minxy and Shapemakers.

They follow discreet styles and designs to cater to every Filipina's taste, preferences and needs.

Meanwhile, Avon's Holiday Glamour jewelry collection offers the shimmer of metallics and the opulence of genuine gems.

Light up the season with the rich, gleaming copper and bronze tones of the must-have accessories from Avon fashion's Holiday Bronze Collection.

The jewelry designs use pearls, rubies, onyx, amethyst and jade, in both cool and charming heirloom settings. They are the Avon Fashion Genuine Gem collection.

Midnight Masquerade is a new collection of intimate apparel.

B&G and sandals in lyrastex zones

HOLIDAY lingerie

LIFESTYLE

Cartier awards 5 women entrepreneurs

FIVE WOMEN entrepreneurs recently received the 2nd Annual Cartier Women's Initiative Awards in Deauville, France, for the creativity, sustainability and social impact of their start-up projects.

The winners each received a Cartier trophy, US$20,000, and will benefit from a full year of coaching from Cartier, Mckinsey & Co. and BSR/AP Business School.

Laureate for Asia: Renee King and Caroline Gan, co-founders of Tanong Tinghi Foods (Philippines), a food manufacturing startup that promotes natural, pure and healthy Filipino foods.

Tanong Tinghi's new products in the Calamansi Squeeze, a pure and extra-virgin, multi-squeeze, seaweed-based calamansi concentrate with a shelf life of six months.

Laureate for Europe: Laura Desmond, founder of Chirosubi (United Kingdom), producer and distributor of eco-friendly cushion skin finishes.

Chirosubi has introduced a novel approach to addressing the problem of water fish skins, by turning them into luxury leather goods.

Laureate for Latin America: Dr. Cyrille Bisson founder of the Institut de Implantologie Cochlaire Dentaire, the only provider of cochlear implant for people with severe and profound hearing loss.

So far, ICDI has successfully carried out three cochlear implant operations, and plans to perform 10 more in 2009.

Laureate for North America: Mara Aspinall-Brown, founder of Sidga Therapeutics (USA), a biotech company aiming to improve the detection and treatment of ovarian cancer.

Her company, Sidga Therapeutics, Inc., is developing early diagnostic technologies and DNA-based therapeutics that aim to destroy cancerous cells and reduce suffering.

Applications for next year's Cartier Women's Initiative Award are ongoing until Feb. 13, 2009. Find out more on www.cartierwomensinitiative.com.

In the Philippines, Cartier is exclusively distributed by Stores Specialists Inc. (SSI) and is located at Ayala's Makati, Shangri-La Plaza Mall and Ayala's Cebu.

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from November 28 to December 1, 2008 only

Boyet Fajardo goes global

AFTER INTRODUCING HIS MENswear line to the local market early this year, RTW designer Boyet Fajardo has now set his sights overseas. He's finalizing separate deals with representatives in Switzerland, New Zealand and the United Arab Emirates for them to carry his men's suits, blazers, jackets and neckties made from imported fabrics.

"I'm amazed at the public's warm response to my menswear line," said Fajardo, who began his career 25 years ago as a fashion illustrator. "At the same time, they're also amazed with how I manage to keep my prices at unbelievably affordable without sacrificing quality."

The designer offers a wide range of options, from classic cuts in plain colors to trendy designs with stripes in different variations. His chief attraction to fit, he said, enables the wearer to look smart yet feel comfortable even in the midst of a hectic day.

Now that he has established himself doing men's clothes, there's no way to get him to tap into the womens market. He has nothing to lose, he said, but everything to gain.

Fajardo turned his back on couture to focus on the more lucrative RTW business in the early '90s. He began by working abroad as an in-house designer for a Singaporean label. Upon his return to the Philippines, he parlayed his experience to establish his own women's RTW label.

"Thanks to my extensive contacts, I was able to rely on a network of regional suppliers and manufacturers," he says. "They've enabled me to keep down my prices."

Before it was common for Filipino manufacturers to have their goods manufactured in China, Fajardo was already flying to and fro that country as he dealt directly with manufacturers. He has since moved the bulk of his operations to Cambodia.

The Boyet Fajardo for Men collection is available at a number of Robinsons Department Store branches and at Landmark in Trinoma.

FAJARDO uses imported fabrics for his suits and shirts.

THE LINE'S classic-qualities appeal to men of all ages.

The original interchange jacket

THE BUGABOO PARKA, A CLASSIC AND one of the best-selling divisional products of all time, is an integral part of Columbia Sportswear's 70-year heritage as a leading authentic outdoor apparel company.

In 1986, Columbia pioneered a radical concept with the introduction of the Bugaboo and its unique, innovative design.

By integrating easy-to-swap layers, it enabled consumers to regulate body warmth or outer shell in rain or wind or as layers liner in chilly conditions. Combine the shell and liner with snaps or zippers for one maximum-protection parka which adapts to changing weather.

With three jackets for the price of one, the Columbia Interchange System delivers unparalleled versatility and value. The Bugaboo was the first, and its longevity and popularity are proof of its success.

Updated for Fall 2008, the Bugaboo for men and women features the OmniTech waterproof and breathable fabric for superior warmth protection. Advanced features include detachable or zone-away hoods and special pockets designed to keep sunglasses, goggles or music within easy reach.

The new Bugaboo Parka is available in contemporary colors in men's and women's versions.

COLUMBIA Sportswear's Bugaboo Parka

Founded in 1938 in Portland, Ore., Columbia Sportswear Company is a global leader in the design, sourcing, marketing and distribution of active outdoor apparel and footwear. As one of the largest outerwear brands in the world, it has developed an international reputation for quality, performance and value.

To learn more about the company and its products, visit its website at www.columbia.com or one of the following Columbia Sportswear branches: Greenhills 3, SM Cebu, Robinsons Galleria, SM Megamall, SM The Block, SM Mall of Asia, Lim Ket Kai Mall, Festival Mall and Gateway Mall.

mychristmas | mysm

Dressy Holidays!

At the Children's and Infant's Wear departments.

Gandang PINAY

Kris Kringle

Khristine B. Gabriel

With Christmas being just around the corner, gift giving can sometimes be a tedious task especially when we begin to run out of ideas for the yearly Kris Kringle. The less hectic we are the moment awards, take us to give more to what we refer to as 'me baby', which has to fit a certain description or category. Personally, I like to devote time giving the usual generic gifts, and give well- thought of gifts that the receiver would truly enjoy using.

A thoughtful gift could be make-up! For each week, give an item that have fits the description, and come Christmas, your baby has a complete set! What a Gandang Pinay Christmas that would be!

Here are some ideas I'd like to share with you to help ease your Christmas shopping woes:

• Something round – I suggest the Ever Bilena Silver Collection Face Powder. It comes in a round compact with a round sponge! I'd love to receive this from my Mineto-Mineto as its unique formula combines my skin, reduces lightening, drying and gives me a natural glow! And there are four different shades to choose from, you're careful to pick the shade closest to the skin tone of your baby.

• Something long – Why not give the gift of luscious lips! The Ever Bilena Silver Collection Lipstick comes in a long silver packaging and there are 12 shades to choose from as well! Each shade could also represent the 12 months of Christmas!

• Something small and useful – We all want the natural rosy glow, don't we? The Ever Bilena Silver Collection Blush On is the palm of your hand and is definitely useful! There are four delightful shades to choose from that would certainly give a natural flushed look within moments- ing the skin.

• Something wet and sticky – Skin can always come up and to spoil sticky to stop the. Complete the make-up set with the Ever Bilena Silver Collection Super Matte Mascara! I love how my big my eyelashes look when I use this product. You can never go wrong with this one.

The Ever Bilena Silver Collection all come in an elegant silver packaging that will definitely give holiday cheers! I hope with these ideas you will have a hectic shopping for your Mineto-Mineto baby this Christmas. Have a Gandang Pinay Christmas!

Share your thoughts and suggestions or send a topic you want to discuss next week to kris.gabriel@gmail.com

New salon in Quezon City

[illegible] SALON AND SPA owner Marilyn Abrillo (third from left) had the ribbon-cutting at her newly opened salon. Above photo shows Abrillo with guests Ivory Mangaoang, assistant director of Ricky Reyes group of salons; fashion designer Eddie Bobiles, and Marion Go-Santos, CEO of RR Holding Corporation. At Galaxy and Hard Rock Cafe are the senior hair and make-up artists of Headtone. Headtone is located at 56 G West Ave., QC. Call 410-8215/ 09157033680/ 09178035804.

Free livelihood training

Learn new skills and crafts at Market! at the Hills, The Clubhouse, Temple Drive, Corinthian Hills on Nov. 29, 9 a.m.-4 p.m. and 9 a.m.-5 p.m. on Nov. 30.

A free demonstration on making household products will be held as part of the month-long Weekend Night Bazaar. Call 706-4586 / 09178161689.

Cole Haan promo

Visit Cole Haan stores at Greenbelt 4, Rockwell and Shangri-La Edsa malls. The stores will have easy pour stress spoons this mall shopping with its aromatic ambience.

Designed to soothe the senses during the holiday rush, the treat is completed with The Spa gift certificate for every P1,000-worth of purchase among the Cole Haan holiday collection.

Business summit

Discover a new way of fostering group conversation and bond in a fun and wheelbarrow way with Battlefield Live at the Asian Business Expo and International Business Summit, Summit 2008 (ABEX), to be held Nov. 28-30 at SMX Convention Center, SM Mall of Asia, Pasay City.

Battlefield Live is a team-oriented combat simulation whose core technology is housed in infrared light. Players shoot an invisible and harmless pulse with light and sound effects called high-velocity infrared light bullets.

Know more about this new tool and how team-building strategies can strengthen business in times of crisis via a talk by Everday Hero Inc. managing director Ian Mallie on Nov. 29, 11 a.m.

For more information on Battlefield Live, visit www.missionpossible.ph.com.

Weekend sale

Sta. Lucia East Grand Mall drops prices on a wide selection of merchandise in time for its Holiday Weekend Sale.

Shop for Christmas presents at Sta. Lucia Department Store, Sta. Lucia East Supermarket, Home Gallery and Planet Toys and over 200 shops and specialty stores mall-wide.

Get as much as 70 percent discounts in the sale, which is set Nov. 28-30, Dec. 5-7, Dec. 12-14 and Dec. 19-21. Mall hours are extended until 12 midnight on Dec. 19.

Receipt dated Sept. 26, 2008 to March 31, 2009 are qualified for the second grand draw on April 6, 2009. Here, one gets a chance to win a house and lot, Nissan motorcycle, appliances and gift certificates.

Martin in Xmas special

A SPECIAL CHRISTMAS TREAT DUBBED "A Christmas Wish," by world-class artists Martin Nievera and Lonie Quampo, is set Dec. 13, 7 p.m. at Greenhills City Church in Alabang, 3/L Festival Mall. This is for the benefit of the Louie Tolosora Liver Foundation (LTLF). Tolosora died in Nov. 23, 2005 of liver cancer. The LTLF is dedicated to help victims of the dreaded disease, specially infants and children, through funding and seminars. Call LTLF at 8365757 and 8299328 or 09189227282.

GOINGS ON

"The results obtained every day at Zunic were scientifically impossible 5 years ago, when the technologies we currently use did not exist."

—Lani, Zunic Manager
3 November 2008

At Zunic, we take great pride in having assembled all the best and the latest equipment at the very cutting edge of slimming and body sculpting technology," says Lani, Zunic Manager. "That's how we can give our exclusive shorted-word class treatments that would cost up to three times as much in cities like Sydney and San Francisco.

"People with medical backgrounds are especially impressed with what we do, and are among our most loyal clients. With their training and expertise, they can appreciate how the latest advances in SHAM and RF technology, photon accelerators, cryolipolysis, and lasers are being applied in the fight against unwanted fat.

"But you don't have to be a medical expert to know that our treatments work. You can actually see, feel, and measure the results, often in as little as 45 minutes! In fact, we actively insist that you do, to show how you're making progress!"

The testimonials provided by Zunic's clients speak for themselves!

That's why Zunic is the premiere choice of busy executives, full-time moms, frequent travelers, models, and people whose medical conditions prevent them from exercising, undergoing surgery, or taking appetite suppressants.

When you've tried every slimming technique imaginable and nothing seems to work, come to the slimming center clients trust — Zunic.

Visit us today for a free, confidential consultation. We're open 9 am to 8 pm, Monday to Sunday!

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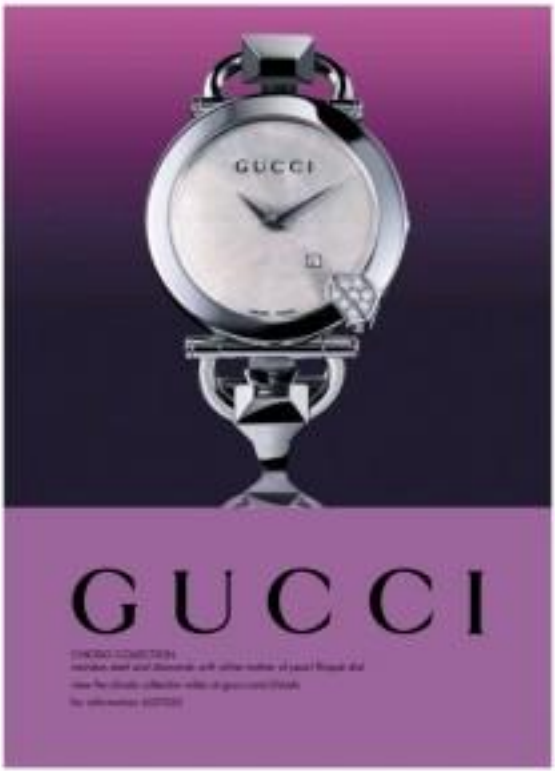

New silver collection

EVER BILENA HAS LAUNCHED a Silver Collection.

Its face powder was designed to optimize the effects of light and diminish the appearance of imperfections, to reduce lightening and drying. It serves as a soft powder veil. The delicate, ultra-fine texture doesn't cake or settle into fine lines.

The Silver Blush-on is a silky powder blush that blends with one's skin color and contour. To prevent dry cheeks, it has Vitamin E, and highlights cheekbones with a sheer wash of color to create a natural, flushed look.

The Silver Collection Mascara has a long wand to get to hard-to-reach lash areas. The fine bristles and creamy formula allow the rich black color to wrap around individual lashes, giving them volume and length.

The Silver Collection Sheer Lipstick has sleek lines and velvety finish. Such color and shimmering effect will last all day and night.

Breakthrough yet affordable diamond peel system

HONEYLILIA, MEDICO'S complete line of dermatological products has a Peel Private Skin Care System...a compact diamond peel system specially made for those who want an affordable yet safe alternative to clinic-based skin treatments.

The package comes with special fibers to remove accumulated dirt, the Sebum Removal Tip for active pimple and acne removal, as well as a mini brush to clean the diamond peel tip made of genuine diamond powder.

The Herbaline, MD Diamond Peel Private Skin Care System also comes with a free Peel-Exfoliating Cream and Clarifying Lotion.

This offer forms a large part of HBC's Solus for Money campaign which aims to give loyal customers the greater beauty care experience without the high expense.

The campaign also offers Makeover Zone, which gives new customers a chance to experience "free" exclusive beauty services, that is only unique to HBC.

Call 8845555 local 2245, 8842280, 500-88-hbc (4222), 09153115163 or shop online at www.hbc.com.ph.

LIFESTYLE Fashion&Beauty

Israeli brand braves RP market

By Alex T. Vergara

A 56-year-old institution comes to Manila to cater to the 'magnet' 18-to-21-year-old market

DESPITE A HIGHLY competitive and cautious market leaning for tougher times, Israeli ready-to-wear brand Fox is undeterred as it introduced itself to Filipinos with last week's opening of its Greenbelt 5 store.

People behind it, including Brian Lim, vice president of Waters Corp., and Israelis Dhani Wizel and Kibit Levy-Wizel of Tel Aviv-based Fox Wizel Ltd., are banking on the so-called "magnet" age (18-21) to pull in a diverse clientele as young as 13, to married folk and emerging singles well into their 30s, 40s and even 50s.

It doesn't hurt that Fox's price points are well within reach of most fashionistas. Ninety percent of the clothes are made in Ari the most stringent quality control measures in China.

"Despite preparing a very Western European feel, Fox's clothes are reasonably priced," said Lim. "Even fashionable FS spaces are very much more value for money."

Waters Corp. is the company behind Bench, the homegrown denim brand, and the local principal of such international names as Colo, Charles and Keith, Aldo and now Fox.

The Greenbelt 5 opening came three months after Fox opened its first store in the Philippines at Robinson's Ermita and SM City Cebu. Two more stores, one an SM Mall of Asia and the other at SM Megamall, will open soon.

"We decided to keep the opening of the first two stores as low key as possible," said Lim. "Despite the absence of publicity, to-opener fans have quite good. A good number of people know or have heard of the brand."

Fox has over 400 stores worldwide, 200 of which are in Israel. For a country with a population of seven million and a virtual

ASEAN ambassador Christian Bautista and Fox's Hanit Wizel

FOX'S Elias Levy-Peled and wife Orsat Jaime

Turn photos to memories
Digiprint Photo Storybook
digiprint

Print your Photo Storybook now at Digiprint activareas

Save the earth one step at a time

SEVEN designs for the canvas tote bags. There are six regular embellished floor-stock designs.

Two hits for McCann Erickson at the New York AME Awards

Two of McCann Erickson Philippines' integrated campaigns gained recognition at the New York-based AME awards. Philippine-born entries were McCann's "Family Bonding on the Coke Side of Life" and Bogart's "Angel (Baby Safe)", awarded a Bronze Medal Winner and a Finalist Certificate respectively.

McCann Erickson commended both "how we used of these market realities brands can be refreshed and their growth re-ignited by winning insightful strategies and creative ideas that enhance a brand's relevance amidst today's realities."

McCann's nominee is for Coca-Cola's "Family Bonding on the Coke Side of Life", the breakthrough integrated campaign that promoted the value of family meals while celebrating Coke as mothers' ally in strengthening family ties. Bogart's "Angel (Baby Safe)" was recognized for its effective leverage of an insight that advanced the brand equity of safety and efficacy. The integrated campaign, which featured popular actor John Lloyd Cruz, was straightforward yet highly contagious. As a result, Coke and Bogart's sales performance accelerated, and their market shares expanded.

Notably, over the AME awards, McCann Erickson's Managing Director, Ramily Villanueva: "This is an important victory. The AME is one of the most prestigious awards in the world, and the finalist certificate and bronze win affirm our commitment to business and brand-building work for our clients. That brands Coca-Cola and Bogart have been long-time leaders underscores the achievement when client and agency collaborate on insight, strategy and powerful campaign development."

McCann Erickson, a member of the McCann Worldgroup, is the Philippines' undisputed advertising leader for the past 29 years, authoring highly successful campaigns for brands in various product categories.

By Nena Wallwork
Contributor

THEY SAY WHEN YOU'RE DOING what you see meant to do, things magically fall into place. It certainly seemed that way for the team behind Mother Earth.

Respect our oceans, our planet, and a desire to do something about it, brought us together in the project... each one with a reasoning yes!

A trip to Smokey Mountain was a wakeup call. As was finding out about the Great Garbage Patch. Did you know that there is a swirling sea of garbage, roughly the size of Texas, containing 3.5 million tons of trash, floating somewhere between San Francisco and Hawaii? There is! And these are just a few of the signs that our world is literally running into plastic.

Starting the Earth is a daunting task. But even if you start small—one step at a time. Which is what we've decided to do.

We are all big believers in the fight against plastic, and we each make it a point to bypass our own shopping bags around. We also each had our own opinions on what could make reusable bags better, and more convenient. How encourage more people to use them?, making them bigger and stronger (to carry more stuff), and cheaper!

So one fateful night we decided to take matters into our own hands and make that bigger, stronger and cheaper bag ourselves!

After the initial excitement wore off, we got down to the nitty gritty. How were we going to make these?

That's when we started thinking about seeking an underprivileged group of people to make our bags. What if we could do two birds for one stone by helping the environment, and at the same time help some of our fellow Filipinos?

Not long after we started looking into this around, we found the charming women of The Livelihood Shop in Taguig. It was started in 1989 when they began by getting the scraps from a nearby garment apparel factory and started making their own items.

Since then they've ventured into numerous novelty items. Today they have 16 all-female sewers, 10 were old and above, who expertly make our bags and five out-of-school youth who do the silk-screening.

Mother Earth represents not just our own wish to help our planet battle against plastic, but also our hope to persuade more people to do so as well.

UNIQUE and limited designs, depending on availability of decor or materials/colors to be sewn on the bags

Baddeo's alluring women of power

INSPIRED BY SUCH REMARKABLE women as Michelle Obama, Oprah Winfrey, Lucee Legarda and Rose Anson-Roa, fashion design artist Eddie Baddeo presented a strong collection recently to be worn by these alluring ladies of power.

The Philippine Fashion Week at the SMX Convention Center is one of the best platforms to showcase his glamorous creations, the maverick designer huddled down to work and joined a sterling lineup on "Grand Allure Night."

Knowing that the Grand Allure Section is generally considered Couture Night, Baddeo displayed his mastery of draping with a 10-piece collection made of stretch satin and silk noosa.

His grand statement? Sculptured sleeves he deftly manipulated, shaped and molded into elusive accent for his jewel-toned **Rose sweeping gowns.**

Statuesque models, in towering Wilson stilettos, looked rich and luxurious in hair and makeup by Jinky Daniels and Rudy Advincula. Director Raymond Villanueva set the evening in a romantic mood.

"The atmosphere in the 50s, when people were blessing with optimism and everyone was just happy! At that time, Tito and Dagum came up with clothes that were vibrant and colorful," Baddeo says.

Sharply constructed, with the necklines as the other focal point, Baddeo admits that his exquisite creations drew heavy inspiration from strong women in powerful positions.

After all, only women of substance and a certain dynamism can sway the gowns with panache and aplomb.

FOR THE opening gala of Philippine Fashion Week, Baddeo created for top model photographer Jo Ann Bisagni an ivory silk bustier gown with a navy back accent in indigenous fabric.

SAMANTHA Lewis in t-shaped, knotted and draped neckline fuchsia gown with egg sleeves and red puja surrounband

RHONA in a plunging-neckline sweetheart copper gown with puff sleeves and fully beaded net hem

MICHELLE Panamaughan in a one-sided, asymmetric-neckline gown with egg-shaped sleeves and beaded lace surrounband

NENITA and Virgilio Lim

BRIAN Lim and Jun Hall

SIGALIT and Sinai Djemal

ISRAELI Ambassador to the Philippines Zvi Vigal

EJAY Falcon

HAARON Hickok and Guji Lorenzana

MAGGIE Wilson

Israeli brand braves RP market

From page H1

retail arena where almost every major retailer is present. For starters, it personally sells an average of one million pieces of clothing annually in Israel.

Its men's and women's lines, according to Wiesel, the company's CEO, are young, hip, edgy but quite wearable. Its Greenbelt 3 store has a huge line of jeans, printed tees, hooded sweaters, knitted jackets, underwear and lacy tops, among others.

"In my opinion, we've gotten the best of some of these major brands and mixed them all up," said Wiesel.

Such a hit

Corporate stiffs in search of more formal and conservative office wear are better off looking elsewhere. Items they wish to such creative and less structured fields as advertising, media and IT duty can wear Fox only after five and on weekends.

"That's why Fox is such a hit among people in creative industries," said Wiesel. "Of course, we're also strong among high school and college students."

In the meantime, buyers has limited the product range to men's, ladies' and babies' wear.

The brand's collection are the brainchild of a team of 40 fashion and graphic designers in Tel Aviv.

How did Wiesel, whose family bought and reinvigorated the 56-year-old institution (the brand antedates the formation of a modern Jewish state in 1948) focus on original owners five years ago, or in a so-called megatrends?

"People have a strange but endearing way of wanting to look older or younger, as the case may be," said Wiesel. "Those in their early twenties want to be independent or at least look the part. They want to look like 30-year-olds. Forties and working adults in their 30s and 40s want to turn back the clock and look 21 again."

But that doesn't mean looking ridiculous in the process. Fox is a hit of varying and mixing and matching, even outerwear as summer as the also-fitted, for instance, can get away with a lacy tube top with matching overlay and checkered shorts.

Sensual ads

Among the similarities that drew Lim to Fox were the brand's young, celebrity-fueled positioning and its sense of ads. Sounds familiar?

He's not at all worried that Fox would eat into Bench's market. Apart from differences in pricing, both brands have their respective niches.

Wiesel and Peled know very little of the Philippine market. They also know how to market abroad. Until they visited the country for the first time last year for another deal.

When they were on their way to the airport, before their eyes loomed billboards of Bench's celebrity endorsers.

"Right there and then, we got an idea of how big they were," she said. "What really convinced us was the size of the Philippine market. Not only is it huge, but majority of the people are still young."

"If we're doing well in countries with an extremely competitive environment like Israel and Singapore," said Wiesel, "I don't see any reason we can't duplicate our success here."

FOX is now open in a mall near you.

FOX Fall/Winter 2006

BENJAMIN Barua and Jake Cuenca

H&M edgy but wearable

FASHION for the "magnet" age

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Nail care

NAIL CARE IS AS important as keeping your skin, hair and wardrobe. Whether your nails are long or short, painted or plain, it is important to keep them clean and in good condition at all times.

For healthier and more beautiful nails, check out Bubble Nail Care at Watsons's Personal Care stores, Robinson's Department Stores, Rustan's Supermarket Stores, Rustan's Home Furnishings, Mercury Drug Stores, Pamgold outlets, Shoppesa outlets, and other leading drugstores, convenience stores, supermarkets and department stores nationwide.

FROM OUR VANITY BASKET

Holiday collection

THE BODY SHOP (WILLS MKT.) softly-inspired holiday gifts for friends and family. Both stocking collections include fibers, Jumbo Rich Plum and Cranberry.

What's more, the exclusive gifts collection features gift boxes made of natural materials such as bamboo, water hyacinth and paper leaves from sustainable natural resources.

Scents such as White Musk, Aqua Lily, Blends Lavender and Cactus Pear and Body Butter products are also available.

Covergirl Christmas gifts

COVERGIRL, DECIEM holiday gifts like Lashblast Mascara, Lineyliner Liquid Eyeliner, CG Smoothers All-day Hydrating Make-up, TruBlend Naturally Luminous Powders, Long lasting Outlast Lip color. Covergirl is now available in all leading department stores and is exclusively distributed by Ruslan Marketing Corporation.

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CHRISTMAS TREASURES | 2008
Enjoy the best deals and offers this season!

Nivea for men

NIVEA FOR MEN SPORT comes in two forms: shower gel and deodorant.

Nivea For Men Sport 2-in-1 shower gel for body and hair has mineral complex that gives your skin an island energy boost after an exhilarating day of sports. It also has a citrus scent that awards a fresh scent on your skin.

To keep you dry all day long, Nivea For Men Sport Deodorant provides strong 24-hour anti-perspirant protection.

Raven and lines spray

ZOILISH 13% OF PHILIPPINE bath and body products bear-up anti-caking master extraordinaire Tim Yap for two after party scams. Packaged in two-night blue spray bottles, these scents are ideal presents for the holidays.

Consoling's Gimme Happen lines spray hints of refreshing cucumber and lotus flower. Nothing happened Here room spray combines peppermint and lavender.

Check out Tim Yap Atelier Party Flavor and Linen Sprays at Rustan's Powerex and Zee Zeel stores in SM, Ayala, Robinsons and major malls nationwide.

For bulk orders, call Tina Palomo at 633-7311 loc 646-7110 or e-mail cancel200 @yahoo.com.

EMPRESS Black to Bust's black and white stripes top and denim skirt

DOMINIC Race to Bust's blue longsleeves punk shirt

Earth-friendly style

THE YOUTHFUL DRESSED AS they are in vivid print shirts and skinny jeans may look like they don't care about the world as few, but these toddlers are out to prove that teens can do their part to save the environment.

The brand is using biodegradable plastic bags made from recycled materials—the plastic disintegrates within six months of exposure to sunlight, and air as opposed to the 20 years that it usually takes plastic to disintegrate.

Bust's also has new Emo-Punk collection consisting of shirts, jackets, printed blouses and skirts in this season's hot palette of black, white and grey accentuated by occasional bright splashes of color.

Emo-Punk collections are in leading department stores nationwide.

LIFESTYLE Fashion Beauty

Trying to fathom the Hermès mania

Why has there been a sudden surge of interest among Filipinos and Asians?

THE 35-CM Birkin is Hermès leather remains the top-selling bag at Hermès boutiques worldwide.

HERMÈS' newest bag, the Jypsiere messenger bag comes in two sizes—34 cm and 37 cm—and is considered a "unisex" bag.

By Ingrid Chua-Go
Contributor

I GOT MY FIRST HERMÈS Kelly from my mom as a wedding present when I was 23 years old," says Miki Yamaguchi, a young woman clad in Prada who visited me from Osaka on my Tokyo trip. She has 10 Hermès bags in her collection, which include five Birkins, four Kellys and one Bolide.

Yamaguchi is also one of the few thousands of women who flock to Paris for the Hermès sale every January and June at the Palais des Congrès.

Clothing, silk scarves, tote canvas bags, belts and other leather goods of up to 50 percent off retail price are up for grabs to those willing to wait in line to be given access to the bi-annual sale.

According to Yamaguchi, Japanese women used to dominate these queues five years ago. But apparently no longer this year, as more and more Chinese and other Asian tourists—including Filipinos!—have taken on a very strong interest in the brand.

What makes Hermès so covetable?

Ten years ago, Hermès was not even that popular a brand among the designer bag-loving Filipinos as Louis Vuitton was. Of origin supreme in this country, and remains the brand of choice by many. But why the sudden surge in interest in Hermès?

I still remember thinking that Hermès bags belonged only to the arms of women from the more "mature" set. After all, who in their 20s or 30s could afford a US$5,000 bag?

Fast forward to today, when a visit to the more upscale malls in Manila would almost always guarantee a Hermès bag sighting or two. There are already over 350 Hermès Birkins scattered in chic Philippines—proof that despite the hefty price tag and a very weak economy, there are women still willing to pay top money for a bag from what is now considered as one of the true bastions of true luxury.

The fact that each bag is hand-stitched by skilled craftsmen lends swell among bag lovers (in an age where perfect stitching can already be done by machines. Handmade premium designer bags spell luxury, hence the even higher premium placed on bespoke items.

Hermès-crazy Tokyo

In Tokyo, many designer bag-vaults stores have a staggering number of Hermès bags.

One store, Brand Rax, has over 90 Hermès bags, and is strategically located—right behind the flagship Hermès store in Ginza. If you didn't find what you were looking for at Hermès, you could make Brand Rax your next pit stop. The staff can barely speak English, but shopping here is easy—each bag has a price tag.

There is no shortage of Birkins, considered the "holy grail" of premium designer bags and one of the hardest bags to buy at Hermès boutiques, at Brand Rax.

Instant gratification comes at a hefty price—a brand new leather Birkin at Brand

TURN TO

EVELYNE GM in square leather makes for a perfect travel bag if you want to keep both hands free.

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25 Natural recipe
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36 Need on Avalon
37 Pool cue
38 Tasks list
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41 Bell Tactical

HOROSCOPE

BY FRANCIS DRAKE

YOU BORN TODAY: You're powerful, intense and very attracted to your environment. You have a keen interest in the occult and mysteries of life. You're passionate about your beliefs! You have a good sense of humor. Investments are important. Work may be very central to your life. Birthdate of: Jean Cocteau, fashion designer; Mary Anne Mobley, model; and Gerardo, Filipino Mass author.

ARIES (March 21 to April 19): Employment opportunities to [illegible] who is [illegible] or maybe further training in some way, might call to your day today. Workers, particularly, may be required to work overtime. You might have one.

TAURUS (April 20 to May 20): Employment gets and positive you know you may today. Your ideas and plans could be [illegible] soon. You could be just lucky day. Romance is and [illegible] you.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 20): You may receive [illegible] today. However, you also might need [illegible] who is on your side. Avoid emotionally unstressful to [illegible] today.

CANCER (June 21 to July 22): You may [illegible] and extra responsibilities today due to [illegible] [illegible] [illegible]

Trying to fathom the Hermès mania

From page 1

Kan can cost up to US$12,000, approximately 30 percent higher than what you'd pay for it if you can get one at Hermès boutique.

Prices for pre-owned Hermès Birkins are considerably lower, from around US$8,500, depending on condition.)

Interesting pieces

At the Hermès boutique, the Birkin is still undisputedly the hottest selling bag, with the Kelly coming in a close second.

A sales associate of Hermès once told me that she has to field over 40 Birkin and Kelly bag inquiries per day! And while these two styles are the "poster bags" for Hermès leather goods, there are more interesting pieces available.

Appliqué. Launched in Hermès last August, this latest runaway sling bag designed by Jean-Paul Gaultier is a hit.

Birkin. Some of peering these bags on the shelves of the flagship Hermès store in Paris, they were sold out. It helps, too, that the bag seen in numerous fashion editorials worldwide before its actual store debut. The bag looks like a Birkin because of the two-strap enclosures, and makes an excellent bag for travel. It is also priced like a Birkin.

Lindy. The Lindy made its debut in 2007. It's a very versatile bag as it can be carried on the shoulder, or on the crook of your arm. It's shaped like a lacksaw cooler, albeit, laid on a flat surface. The Lindy has cute zippers that open the bag wide. Though the shape is rather bulky and takes some getting used to, it is very roomy and quite light.

Victoria. A very basic and rather plain-looking bag, the best thing about the Victoria is its weight.

The interior of the bag is lined in calfe canvas, which makes the bag much lighter and also less expensive, as compared to the Lindy. The dual-zippers (zippers meet in the middle) is convenient as you don't have to keep zipping and unzipping your bag.

You buy this bag because it is functional and because of its workmanship and not for the status that it represents.

Evelyne. Another sling bag from Hermès, it has the geometrized H logo displayed prominently in the front of the bag.

The bag is quite slim, in some offering of personal belongings is needed. The bag begs the side of the body well, and as another alternative, you can tie a scarf at the end of new strap to share as the length for shoulder carry. The newest version of the Evelyne already comes with an adjustable strap.

Opening soon

Filipino women (and men) have become very discerning in their choices of bags, awakened to the fact that there are more styles available other than the usual signature pieces these luxury brands have become known for.

Hermès has already developed a following in the Philippines even if it's not sold here. The brand has other bags — the Bolide, recently launched, Kelly, Kelly Pochette, Medor Clutch, Jige, Garden Party, Paris-Bombay Picotin, and a wide range of casual canvas totes and satchels.

So when Hermès opens in Manila late next year, expect the country's bag-loving community to be more than ready.

THAT IT CAN Bauge Clemence red Lindy in chevrevo leather is a very versatile hand or shoulder bag.

SIGNATURE Hermès orange Victoria in chevrevo leather may be very plain in style, but the color more than makes up for it.

BRAND Hermès shop in Ginza in Tokyo stocks over 90 Hermès bags.

Smart dressing at 'Swing Vote' premiere

DEBBIE Hopper is dressed in a BOSS Black outfit (left). At the premiere of "Swing Vote" are Kevin Costner and his wife Christine Baumgartner

AT THE RECENT LOS ANGELES premiere of the movie, "Swing Vote," A-list actors and stars of the film looked dapper and stylish in their Boss Black outfits.

Streamlined, paired and pared-down, the Boss Black collection creatively mixes classic style with trendy details making a seamless and sleek modern design.

Proving the collection's style elements were the gorgeous stars of the upcoming and critically-acclaimed film, Lead actor Kevin Costner walked the red carpet looking very polished and striking his Boss head-turner in his Boss Black beige pinstripe suit.

A sight of a perfect Hollywood couple, Kevin Costner's wife, Christine Baumgartner complemented her husband with an elegant champagne flowy gown.

While seasoned actor Dennis Hopper showed up at the premiere wearing a classy Boss Black suit ensuring that one can still look striking and fit to his age.

In the Philippines, Boss Black is exclusively distributed by Stores Specialists, Inc. and the boutiques are in Greenbelt 4 and Shangri-La Plaza Mall.

Great phone deals this Xmas

THIS CHRISTMAS, GLOBE offers several options that will make an iPhone 3G purchase easier for its subscribers.

For postpaid subscriptions, the 6gb iPhone 3G comes free with Plan 1699 and the 16gb iPhone 3G for only P2999.

Other iPhone postpaid offers include 8gb for P29,000 and 16gb for P34,500 under GPlus Plan; and 8gb for P25,000 and 16gb for P30,500 under the GPlus 800 Plan.

All postpaid subscriptions come with free text messages, free voice minutes, and free browser and Wi-Fi hours.

For prepaid subscriptions, the 8gb iPhone 3G is priced at P37,999 while the 16GB iPhone is priced at P43,7999.

Subscribers can pay as low as P3,300 per month for prepaid lots using major credit cards.

The prepaid kit comes with a free P1,000 load that can be used not only for text messages or voice minutes, but also for Internet surfing. Using Globe's free browsing site at P0 per 10 minutes gives subscribers as much as 50 hours of free browsing.

Subscribers may avail themselves of zero interest installments for both postpaid and postpaid purchases using credit cards from participating banks.

When subscribers purchase the iPhone 3G from Globe Business Centers and Apple Premium Resellers until Dec. 31, they get a free gift coupon that takes 20 percent off of any iPhone 3G-related accessories such as protective casings and speakers.

Take advantage of the hot Christmas deals from Globe to buy the iPhone 3G for loved ones. With its fast 3G wireless technology, GPS mapping, and support for enterprise features like Microsoft Exchange, Apple iPhone 3G redefines what a mobile phone can do.

The iPhone operates on Wi-Fi, EDGE and 3G networks and it automatically switches between them to ensure the fastest possible Internet speed of up 2 mbps and to give the best e-mail, web browsing, search and map applications for a mobile phone.

The iPhone 3G complements its user's lifestyle, allowing access to the App Store where users can customize their iPhones by downloading applications that are interesting to them.

Visit the nearest Globe Business Center or call Globe's 24-hour call-in service at 211 using your Globe mobile phone (tell Troy) or 730-1000 using a landline.

Secrets to stress-free holiday shopping from Dawn Zulueta

ABS DAWN ZULUETA-LADIMAO shows Christmas and her eyes instantly brighten up. "I love Christmas ... always have and always will."

This actress, model and mom celebrates the Yuletide by roaming and shutting her blessings.

Smart people to start the Christmas shopping early, if only to avoid long lines at stores, swarming and sleep deprivation that almost always come with the holiday rush.

She is ready with her list as early as September and she's shopping in October.

However are scheduled for delivery by the first week of December. "As I use online and really enjoy the holidays and family gatherings," Small wonder why as early as now, Dawn was spotted shopping at Robinsons Supermarket Bacoor (RSB).

100

Dawn discloses that her list of persons runs up to more than 100.

"My world has expanded so much since I got married," she says. "That means I have so many more to show my thanks and gratitude to."

Making a list helps Dawn get the exact purchases in less time.

"It also helps me not to go over budget, and quite often, I have unexpected surprises left!"

Wise and discriminating shoppers like Dawn always consider cost and quality as well as shopping conventions.

"I usually give the sales person in-store three minutes to answer my questions; if they fail that, I just leave and look elsewhere. No time to waste," Dawn says.

She also gets dizzy and distressed by poorly managed department's that's why easy navigation of aisles and customer-friendly display layout are plus factors for this beautiful celebrity.

So why Robinsons Department Store?

"I relate Robinsons Department Store because they have sales personnel who are attentive and knowledgeable about their merchandise. I can save so much time and money when I shop at their stores. Plus, they carry all kinds of brands, imported and local, that have a variety of prices to choose from," Dawn explains.

"I can find everything I need in one go."

For Jacobo and Anton

Dawn admits to loving seasonal sales at Robinsons Department Store from toys and children's, ladies', men's, home and bed and bath, clothes, shoes and accessories departments.

For Christmas, she usually gets her husband, Anton, his favorite brand of shirt or cuteless, wristwatch or jewelry, and for Jacobo, his dream toy.

Apparel or accessories for their favorite hobbies or sports are also on their wishlists.

Godchildren and kids receive toys, accessories or books.

For her closest friends, she loves to give jewelry, fashion accessories, handbags or travel items.

Some accessories and food baskets, memorable, are tops on her list for couples.

Apparel, gift certificates or cash are her gift choices for homemakers.

Waste makes waste

Her advice for a worry-free Christmas shopping is really simple: "Make a list early and stick to your budget," Dawn says.

"Time makes waste. When shopping is done earlier, it will be all the better for you and your loved ones as you can relax and enjoy the true meaning of Christmas together without feeling like the holidays just blew past and left you ragged and worse, poorer."

Robinsons Department Store is at Robinsons Malls, Metro-east Malls, Mega Malls, Starmall and Festival Mall in Alabang, Limketkai Mall in CDO and Robinsons Cybermalls. Visit www.robinsonsdepartmentstore.com.ph.

BONDING: Dawn Zulueta and son Jacobo check out toys.

GIFT choices are varied, of high quality and reasonably priced at Robinsons Department Store, says Dawn Zulueta.

STOCK REPLENISHMENTS AWAIT SMART APPLIANCE BUYERS THIS WEEKEND AT THE GLAMO ARISTON WAREHOUSE SALE

The much awaited Glamo Ariston Warehouse sale is now on its second week and stocks are continuously being brought to the warehouse display on a first-to-first-out basis. Whenever stocks end, sale-wise scratches or units simply without boxes placed with huge discounts of UP TO 30%. Considering that the sale is without an aircon by a week or two left and just like Boracay, now that's a bargain smart shoppers will jump at! These buyers are out to find the best units with the handy rebates and, in fact, machines seldom know they start using it and get them for much less. There's a wide array of refrigerators, upright and chest type freezers, air conditioners, washing machines, water dispensers, microwave ovens, built-in hobs, built-in ovens, rangehoods, gas and electric ranges, kitchen and bath exhausts, and the list goes on. Also, joining are other participating brands like Akira, Icasati, Fortune, Glamco, Hallplus, Honeywell, Kenwood, Remington, Canon, Brother and many more. Not only will you save up to 50% of cost, you will be saving on petrol & entrance fee because of the busy season of the store shopping. Hurry! Limited stocks only and sale will run until December 15, 2008. So, drop by and catch GR's "Essential Finds" warehouse sale at C'M Industrial" main office located at #10 Mercedes Ave., Barangka Drive (Mayon Area), City. Mandaluyong Cities & until you see an display at MC Home Depot Food Bandwagon. For more information, see GR Appliances' showroom (636-2700).

For years, Puregold has experienced continuous growth in the retail/wholesale supermarket industry. And now on its 10th anniversary, Puregold gives its utmost appreciation to all of their Sale customers. And what could be a better way than giving away an early Christmas treat. Dubbed as "Pamaskong Dyamanteng Puregold," Puregold is having a 2-day sale in all of its stores offering at least 10% discount and added values on most of their items. "Puregold Pamaskong Dyamanteng Sale" is on November 29 to 30, 2008.

This early Christmas treat is one of Puregold's extensive efforts to continuously reward its loyal patrons. Puregold guarantees all its customers that there are a lot of exciting things to look forward to on its 10th anniversary celebration - so watch out for it.

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ON HELEEN: Boho Pleated Keyhole Blouse (top); button-down cross midriff cut-out bustle detail at back and contrast fabric for back panel

ON MATT: Loose Knotted jacket with allover print and contrast ribbing, knotted tee with animal print; colored pants with back-pockets details

Out-of-the-box holiday collection

UPLOADED WITH PANSHOPPES signature street style, its holiday collection features bright, festive colors and silhouettes, prints and embellishments.

Influenced by free-spirited, open-minded youths, the holiday pieces reflect the unique, anti-establishment cool exuded by artists, musicians, actors and writers.

Get fabulous ideas for stuffing your own gift boxes for friends and family—or just pick out a festive outfit or two to wear to the end-less lineup of parties and events that make the Christmas season so busy.

With Pinoyboyz's stylish and affordable holiday collection, thinking, shopping and dressing out of the box couldn't be any easier.

Pinoyboyz's latest Holiday Gift collection is available at Pinoyboyz boutiques nationwide.

ON VICKY: Harness Wristwatch topwith front-and-back print and keyhole detail; button-down lapelled vest with floral combination taping and garter detail at back; bigstar shorts with four pockets, wide waistband and cuff detail

LIVING Stars

Edna Bonnet S. Velasco

The Vince Vaughn challenge

OSCAR-WINNER REESE WITHERSPOON, 32, STAR OF "YOUR Christmases" along with Vince Vaughn, are perennial gossip about her: "Every co-star I ever work with I'm either having an affair with him, I'm about to get married with him, or having a baby or are absolutely cannot stand each other. Have used I get along great. He's the funniest person I've ever worked with. It was a challenge for me on way there and keep up with him." AFP

OVERHEARD

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Isa Calzado with her new doll, Shy Violet

OUT OF THE CLOSET

Beautiful 'boy'

By Marinel R. Cruz
Photos by Jim Quiao Punzalan

BELIEVE IT OR NOT, the svelte and gorgeous Isa Calzado once wished she were a boy.

"When I was younger, I was chubby and lacked confidence. I didn't appreciate my being a girl. Only recently did I started enjoying it," the actress told Going

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MARK BAUTISTA

MY CHURCH FRIENDS POLO PACUAL, CHRISTIAN BAUTISTA and Rachelle Ann Go introduced me to spiritual books like "He Stories Every Man Must Hear And the Answer Heaven Won't Need to Transmit" by Bill Perkins and "Battlefield of the Mind" by Joyce Meyer. These books talk about the daily struggles of every person and teach us how to avoid temptations. They also help me get rid of negative thoughts and inspire me to have a more positive outlook in life.

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3 IndieBlue: ACTIVE VIETA
4 BOLT / MADAGASCAR 2
5 BOLT
6 TWILIGHT
7 JAMES BOND: QUANTUM of SOLACE
8 ERASERHEADS: REUNION CONCERT
9 ONE TRUE LOVE
10 SCAREGIVERS

ERMITA

1 TWILIGHT
2 ONE TRUE LOVE
3 TWILIGHT
4 TWILIGHT
5 BOLT
6 SCAREGIVERS
7 ERASERHEADS: REUNION CONCERT
8 PASSENGERS / 3:10 DRIVE
9 JAMES BOND: QUANTUM of SOLACE

METRO EAST

1 BOLT
2 TWILIGHT
3 BOLT
4 TWILIGHT
5 ERASERHEADS: REUNION CONCERT
6 JAMES BOND: QUANTUM of SOLACE
7 ONE TRUE LOVE
8 SCAREGIVERS

NOVALICHES

1 TWILIGHT
2 ONE TRUE LOVE
3 BOLT
4 SCAREGIVERS

PIONEER

1 BOLT
2 TWILIGHT
3 TWILIGHT
4 ONE TRUE LOVE

STA. ROSA

1 TWILIGHT
2 BOLT
3 SCAREGIVERS
4 ONE TRUE LOVE

LIPA

1 TWILIGHT
2 SCAREGIVERS
3 ONE TRUE LOVE
4 BOLT

DASMARIÑAS

1 BOLT
2 TWILIGHT
3 SCAREGIVERS
4 ONE TRUE LOVE

IMUS

1 ONE TRUE LOVE
2 BOLT
3 TWILIGHT
4 SCAREGIVERS

ANGELES

1 TWILIGHT
2 ONE TRUE LOVE
3 SCAREGIVERS
4 BOLT

STARMILLS

1 BOLT
2 ONE TRUE LOVE
3 BURN AFTER READING
4 SCAREGIVERS
5 TWILIGHT
6 JAMES BOND: QUANTUM of SOLACE

BACOLOD

1 TWILIGHT
2 SCAREGIVERS
3 BOLT
4 LIVING HELL
5 ONE TRUE LOVE
6 ERASERHEADS: REUNION CONCERT

ILOILO

1 TWILIGHT
2 ONE TRUE LOVE
3 SCAREGIVERS
4 BOLT
5 LIVING HELL
6 ERASERHEADS: REUNION CONCERT

Beautiful 'boy'

Pretty page 11

Hmm.

Now she's very much into girly items, like her favorite Wonder Woman T-shirt and Marilyn Monroe lunch box.

"I've always felt that, in some way, I'm like Wonder Woman. I'm not physically strong like her, but people say I connect them with my abilities to juggle various commitments," he explained. "[Because] she symbolizes beauty, femininity and sexuality."

TOYS

My favorite doll is called Itty Violet, after one of the characters of the animated TV series "Rainbow Brite." I once had a doll exactly like her that my parents gave me one Christmas when they were still together. For some reason, instead of ask for "me ... I have a picture opening the gift. I don't remember what happened to that doll. But when I told the story to my fan group, Enchantrice, they gave me this. They bought it on eBay. It's how they use things that are really special.

I sleep with Leo, my stuffed lion everyday. I love hugging him—motivates love. He's always on my bed. He's my guardian when I sleep.

BOOK

"Blessings in Disguise" is memorable to me because I wrote a story for the book. It's about finding beauty in life despite having gone through painful situations.

TOPS

This shirt is a favorite because it has Wonder Woman printed on it. I also have a Wonder Woman jacket.

My recent purchase is this Ann Friel jacket from Trunk Metalik.

MEMORABILIA

I'm fond of lunch boxes. A friend gave me this shown in school with pictures of Marilyn Monroe's. It also has a really cool caption: "I'm definitely a woman and I enjoy it."

EYEGLASSES

My pair of Tempesht shades is a gift from my boyfriend. I like it because it's not available in the Philippines. I'm like that, hoping no one on, gone to me.

NECKLACE

I plan to start collecting jewelry soon. I got these pieces in San Francisco. My first purchase was a gold necklace with a dog plate that's hardly noticeable. It has the inscription: "The spirit is the true self." These words are so much about me and things I believe in. The silver necklace I'm wearing is a gift from my boyfriend on my birthday.

SHOES

I love my pair of Zara gladiator shoes with lion motifs/nails. Every time I wear them, people compliment me.

BAGS

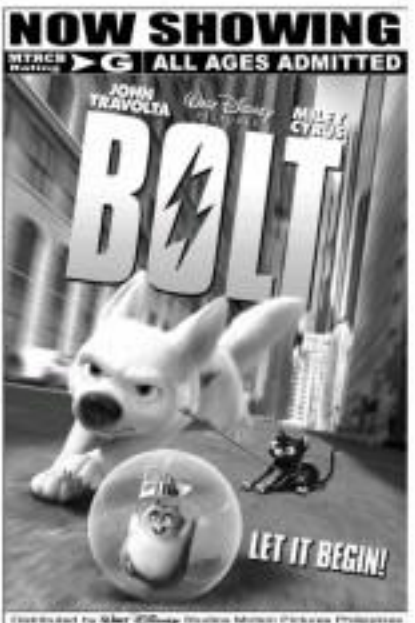
I don't own a Louis Vuitton bag. My dream bag, though, is Marc by YSL. I could've just bought it myself, but I actually believed someone had the intention of buying that very bag for me (laughs).

Another favorite is my black Lanvin bag with gold chains. It doesn't look branded but that's what I like about it.

So is that world's fastest artist in "Disney," which opens Thursday night at SM?

E-mail: [illegible]@inquirer.com.ph

A JACKET featuring Jace Rizal and another one that says Ice is No. 1.



REGINE TOLENTINO

WE GOT OUR TWO HERE Tess, Cooky and Spunky, ten years ago. Spunky belongs to my daughters Reigner and Regnes, while Cooky is my youngest sister Rhian's. They're both male. Actually they're brothers. Our helpers take good care of them because our mom loves them dearly. My daughters, however, are allergic to fur, so they can't play with Cooky and Spunky, who are so fat and lovable and affectionate, but very quiet. They're very sweet dogs.

Reigner Neo Ehejo IV
Reinvestigated Bulldog

American Music Awards in LA, Nov. 23

AT THE CINEMAS

GLORIETTA 1	1 BOLT	2 TWILIGHT	3 SLUMDOGS	4 ONE TRUE LOVE			
GLORIETTA 4	1 BOLT	2 TWILIGHT	3? TWILIGHT				
	4	5	6 TWILIGHT	7 TWILIGHT			
GREENBELT 1	1 ONE TRUE LOVE	2 TWILIGHT					
GREENBELT 3	1? TWILIGHT	2? TWILIGHT					
	3	4 BOLT	5 TWILIGHT				
ALABANG TOWN CENTER	1? TWILIGHT	2 TWILIGHT					
	3 BOLT	4	5 TWILIGHT				
AYALA CENTER CEBU	1 TWILIGHT	2 TWILIGHT	3 BOLT	4 ONE TRUE LOVE			
MARKET! MARKET!	1 TWILIGHT	2 ONE TRUE LOVE					
	3	4 BOLT	5 SLUMDOGS				
TRINOMA	1 ONE TRUE LOVE	2 BOLT	3	4			
	5 TWILIGHT	6 TWILIGHT	7? TWILIGHT				

AT THE MALLS

Ayala Malls

- Glorietta — ANSONS APPLIANCE FAIR, November 21-December 2, Glorietta Activity Center
- GREENBELT — GREENBELT 3 EXCLUSIVE SALE, November 21-23
- Alabang Town Center — 6TH CHRISTMAS WORKSHOP, November 28, Activity Center, 4pm
- Ayala Center Cebu — BPI INSTALLMENT WARNER, November 14 to 30, Rockwell Atrium & Activity Center
- MARKET! MARKET! — CELEBRITY RECIPES SPECIAL ANNIVERSARY SHOW, November 28, Activity Center
- Cinemalaya — Supreme Philippine presents A CHRISTMAS CAROL, The Musical, November 14 to December 11, 2008
- Ayala Museum — CHRISTMAS, Opening until 27 November 2008 at Museum Floor
- Tri Noma — ANSON'S APPLIANCE FAIR, November 19-Dec 1, Activity Center; TRINOMA TECHNO-CLASSICA, November 26, 27, 7pm, 4th level Trilobana Park

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Manila's Deadliest Roads this Sunday!

FREE with the Sunday issue of the Inquirer

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Interview with a hot vampire
InHollywood
/M2

Ricky Lee, man of letters

"I WAS so obsessed into writing for the movies," Ricky Lee says.

Multi-awarded scriptwriter launches his very first novel

By Reuben Sarc Dioquino Jr.
Photos by Jeoguen-nina Cruz

USHERING IN visitors to his bedroom/office, award-winning scriptwriter Ricky Lee says, "Eto ang mundo ko."

In front of the computer monitor is a pigeon hole crammed with paper work (not usually dividing his time between assignments).

Lee's day jobs—as creative manager in ABS-CBN and creative consultant to his film unit, Star Cinema—keep him busy.

He was in charge of the TV shows "Lobo," "Singing Idol Ko Man" and "Kahit Isang Saglit," and is now working on upcoming shows like the telenovelas for Luna Television, Mega Television and IC Enterprises Productions.

In spite of his full schedule, Lee found the time to write his first novel, "Para Kay B (Gising Buena Dimensiunder ng Pag-Ibig ang Kwento ni Si Ate)." Actually, he took a three-year break from scriptwriting to focus on the book.

And he has two other novels in the works—a satire on a gay man-avenger revolutionary and a political saga spanning the 1970s through the 1990s.

On the big screen, Lee is also to make his comeback as scriptwriter with Joel Lamangan's digital movie "Pusit."

"Para Kay B" will be launched on Sunday at the Bahay Alumni of UP Diliman, Quezon City.

TAKE FIVE

Who is B?

The lead character Luna is a fictionized writer, whom Luna is meets him briefly. B also loves Luna, but B is a complex person. As he writes, his love seems to suffer with it.

Based on real life? Your life?

Based on my friends' love life! Composite lo.

The novel shows are many dedications to B's identity?

When I turned (scriptwriter-actress and friend) Eliberth Ortaiz about it, she said I will tell everyone that the book is dedicated to me. (Actress) Hilda de Guzman joined. Whoever it is... Sing. Belter. Shocking. Bonus... I will sing in your funeral.

How many years did it take to finish the novel?

The writing itself took a year.

I fabricated for three years. I stopped writing movies, going to parties and conducting my workshop. I refused to go out until I felt I had earned the right to come out... with this book.

I ended up finishing drafts for three novels. The last one is "Para Kanyli," which is closer to my debut because I (never) tackled love in my past short stories. I'm identified with goddess Luna.

Has the personal conflict also been political?

Love stories are also political in a way.

Why a novel only now?

I've always wanted to write a novel and I started in fiction. For my first short story, which I won (fourth year high school), I was paid P50.

It was entitled "Impyer" and it came out in Philippine Free Press. I think the editor, Ben Medina, took pity on me because of my sorry letters. I wrote that I was an orphan who wanted to escape the misery of my life in Tarlac, Carmen-Nor'on.

I knew as early as then that writing could be a profession, like farming or fishing.

I also wrote "Desmonda Magdiwang," which will be made into a film by Lav Diaz. It's a short story but since it's Lav, it'll become a long movie.

To think a novel is such a 19th-century medium, why not a digital movie?

While everyone is going digital, (I go left), to challenge myself, I want MRT commuters and students to read me. I want people to get back to reading.

I'm going back to my roots: I just got sidetracked into writing for the movies.

Did you ever consider (thematizing)?

Some people keep calling me (that), even though I haven't tried directing yet. I'm scared of being on top of a multimillion project line.

But with digital technology, it can be cheaper?

Maybe.

I'll try. But I'll be a rather poor old I am. I still have lots of stories. E-mail: kjquinones@inquirer.com

"Love stories are also political in a way."

Entering the twilight zone of screaming

LOS ANGELES—THIS IS THE HOT YOUNG actor that girls are screaming their mouths out for!

Some reporters wouldn't associate Robert Pattinson who looked like he just got out of bed, hit hair a thick mess, with the buzz—screaming hysteria, to be more specific—proclaiming him as Hollywood's next "It Guy." But others we first interviewed him on the set of "Harry Potter and the Goblet of Fire" in the UK several years ago, we know it was only a matter of time before dishevelled producers/directors would relate Cedric Diggory to a star-launching gig like "Twilight." Tall, blessed with particular good looks, Robert stood out among the "Harry Potter" cast.

Kristen Stewart offered the most astute observation about her "Twilight" co-star: "Rob is very organic. He's in the moment and he lets it happen when it hrrrrr ... He's a courageous actor."

As predicted, "Twilight," where Robert and Kristen play Edward and Bella, respectively is the film adaptations of Stephenie Meyer's hit novel of the same name, topped the box-office last weekend. The movie about a high school girl who falls in love with a vampire grossed over $70 million.

Follow are excerpts of our separate interviews with Robert and Kristen.

Robert Pattinson

How would you describe your life now?

I've been involved in "Twilight" all year now. I've been doing press for several weeks so I haven't really had time to reflect on what my life actually is. It would be very strange being locked in a thing where I go into lots of different rooms and lots of little girls scream at me all the time (laughter). I would probably get old after a while. I think it is going to be my year. That's the year I've always been looking forward to. I don't know why (laughter).

How old are you now?

Twenty-two.

That movie is about obsessive love. Have you ever experienced it?

Yeah, sort of. I remember there was a girl I was totally obsessed with for about 10 years.

Ten years is a long time.

Yeah, but it's like I never ever spoke to her. I

ONLY IN HOLLYWOOD

Robert T. Nepuder

think that's the best type of love (laughter). I remember when reading my diaries from the time—subconsciously anything else would mess up with a girl. It's like, she'll better be mostly in. When it happens, you can always have that kind of hope and then when I finally told her she was like, "You've never spoken to me in my whole life. You've only spoken to me about three times and never said anything more (laughter)."

Are you still in a band?

I went to a band practice ago. Not like a proper band but I had kind of roll on, roll off musicians. I still try and play but it's weird now since when I'm trying to do it as an actor, it always seems kind of clumsy. I liked playing at open mikes in bars and stuff because it was the only time I really felt free. I did a couple of gigs in LA and people filmed and put them on the Internet. It just ruins the whole experience. You're like "Oh, that wasn't the point." So I stopped. I'm going to wait for all this to die down before I start doing live gigs again.

What is your home life like?

In LA, it's basically routines of sanitizing for my phone to ring (laughter), reading scripts and that's about it (laughter). In London, I really actually enjoy for books and I just watch a lot of movies. I have very few hobbies (laughter).

Can you tell us more about your family background?

My dad's from Yorkshire and he did a bunch of things. In the '70s, he moved to America for a bit and just worked as valet driver. Then he started selling cars in the '80s. My mom worked as a hooker at a modeling agency and now they're both retired. My mom, sisters and I speak really well. My parents never just very mean of how you're treated differently in the world if you speak unbelievably. So it was just the way I was brought up.

Do you believe in having a soul mate?

I hope there is such a thing. I guess it would be quite scary to find actual mate when you're young because you're probably going to mess it up (laughter).

How have you embraced the thought that you're a sex symbol now?

It's strange because I'm a sex symbol to 14-year-old girls (laughter) which I guess is not the most helpful situation to be in. But yeah, I'm never really thought of it. It's just so funny, I mean, just last year I wouldn't even get a date (laughter) and then this year the world turns and it's so bizarre (laughter) that everybody just changes their mind in the same time (laughter).

You couldn't get a date?

When I was in London, it was like, not at all. I don't know why. That's all I talked about the whole of last year ... that I need to get a girlfriend. I need to get a girlfriend and then this year, I would have say 12 [year-old] I wanted (laughter).

What do you look for in a girl?

I'm always shocked by the people who I'm interested in. It's always completely random. I generally like people who are a bit crazy but yeah, that's pretty much the only prerequisite.

You get to run up a tree, among other special things. How did you achieve some of these effects?

I used wires only in a couple but not very very tough doing all that type of stuff. It was designed like in a long fix movie in a lot of sequences. That was tough. Actually anything to do on a harness because you have to clear so much effort just maintaining your center of gravity. It's tougher especially when you have to make it look effortless and not breath as well (laughter). That was probably the hardest thing I had to do in the movie.

How long did you rehearse for stunts that required wire work?

Not a huge amount of time. About two weeks, I guess, and I had to do a lot of it as well.

What kind of music do you listen to?

I don't know much about contemporary music. I do have an iPod but I listen to a lot of old blues. I listen to John Lee Hooker and Elmore James. I have been listening to them for years. I was obsessed with Van Morrison for years. I went to see him recently where he performed "Astral Weeks." I just spent the entire night crying (laughter). Just 3 cats really obsessed with Van Morrison.

Were you a rebellious teenager?

I really wasn't very much of a rebel. I'm sure by people now as more of a rebel which is strange. I don't like doing what people tell me to do. I don't do libertarian rebel against them.

How did you evoke sexiness in this role?

A lot of it has to do with not speaking ... like that obvious makes somebody more attractive. I wasn't really trying to play Edward in a sexy guy though. He's not very sexy in the book. It's like he's just kind of mysterious and his whole personality exudes from a template. So it creates more mystery and whatever he says seems very contrived. He always has a completely opposite thought in what he's saying in his head. He's always hiding things, a lot of the attraction to someone is always fascination and that's what a lot of the story is.

What interests you most about this sudden fame?

When something or someone is hyped and you're just on the front foot of a lot of things, people want to see you closer. That's kind of scary, especially when you're not really putting yourself out there.

Kristen Stewart

Have you had crushes that became obsessions?

I feel like most crushes are fairly obsessive ... for me at least. I have experienced them.

At what age?

Oh my God, I started having some crushes on people when I was five, I think (laughter).

Your character kind of takes care of her mom. How is your own relationship with your mom now?

My mom is awesome here. She's the caretaker but to a sort of unsentimental way. I have a lot of brothers who aren't my biological brothers. We take in strays but I'm friends with my mom. The one thing that Bella is not getting from her mom is that her mother is not being a mom. She's just a buddy and you don't need a friend in a mom always. I mean, that would be a good part of it but you need more than that and I have both parts in my mom.

Tell us more about your mother taking in strays. That sounds exciting.

She's just taking in friends that I've acquired who just don't have it easy in their own homes. That's really great. I just did a movie called "Welcome to the Rileys" where I play a homeless kid. She's squatting in a house at the time that you see her in the movie. She's essentially homeless and it's this sweet conversation that I was completely unaware of—runaways and people, kids predominately who live on the streets.

So your mother rehabilitates them and they go back...

No, these are my brothers. We keep them. These are my best friends (laughter). Yeah, we

adulation

a sea symbol to
-year-old girls.
is not the most
lpful situation'

KRISTEN Stewart on Robert: "Rob came into the audition looking sort of terrified, like a rabbited-boy-and-pinned. The pairwas just very evident to him. I am not saying it's in Rob but he knew what to bring to the character. He's in the moment and he lets it happen, which is hi-tech."

ly have to do much else. I was always trying to make it easier for him because he's always found it very difficult. I was always trying to find points to take the pressure off of him.

We had to climb a tree once on a wire in the ballet studio at the end of the movie. It's a pretty rigorous fight scene and there were a couple of times where he goes to pick me up. The first time he pulled his groin so they put me on a wire and we had to go up in the balcony. Then Anton (played by Cam Gigandet) pulls him down and I smack the floor and roll in a mark. Hitting the mark was really difficult and there was glass all over the floor. It was fake glass but it cut me you. I mean ouch like that. I really like physicality, I really think it's fun.

E-mail the columnist at rmpalos_5000@yahoo.com and read his blog, "The Hipalos Report," at http://blog.inquirer.net/hipalosreport.

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"Twilight" series by
fascinated being.
's nerdy human-
who falls in love
teenage vampire.

CHEER FACTOR

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vegetarian vampires
ower humans from con-
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and Women's Media

Circle joined fully hooked. Wes Hilton and Screamin' Media held the moment's eighth anniversary event "Twilight Takes Back the Night." It was with much anticipation that those who came waited to watch the movie's trailers and behind-the-scenes interviews.

Of course, the talk of town that present women by Atty. Alex Dy of Antonio Law School, and the lecture's drama on self-defense for girls by essential area practitioner Singapore Andrew Lu brought home the message: Women need to be aware of their strengths, vulnerabilities and rights.

"Twilight" themed games thought up by members of Twilight Circle Philippines (with-movie passes and "Twilight" posters as prizes) naturally made the gathering most memorable for the participants.

And so, after reading the books, passionate young boys and girls, their moms and maybe their grandmothers, too, are off to the cinemas for the film one. "Twilight" may just be a book, or a movie, but it does help us imagine a world where some creatures would risk even their immortal lives, just so that human females could roam safely. At night.

SHANG
CINEPLEX
1 TWILIGHT 1:15, 4:00, 6:45, 9:30
2 BOLT
3 TWILIGHT 1:45, 4:30, 7:15, 10:00
4 BOLT
QUANTUM OF SOLACE 2:00, 4:30, 8:40, 9:00
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Chowking.

'Hairspray' on HBO

SET IN JOHN WATERS' NA-tive Baltimore at the height of the 1960s TV dance-show craze, "Hairspray" tells the story of high school "hairdopper" Tracy Turnblad (Nikki Blonsky) as she graduates from outsider to celebrity sensation.

She becomes the toy star on "The Corny Collins Show" and wins the heart of resident hunk Link Larkin, away from the beautiful but shameless bitches Von Tussle.

Soon enough, her groupies, sympathetic fashionopera but in the plight of African-American performers on the same station that airs her favorite show.

"Hairspray," premiere on HBO Nov. 20, 8 p.m. It also stars John Travolta, Michelle Pfeiffer, Christopher Walken.

Celeb role models

The Nickelodeon Kid's Choice Awards, which honors the best in TV movies and music—as voted by viewers [mostly kids] of the Nickelodeon cable channel—will be held tomorrow at the Aliw Theater, Star City Complex in Pasay City.

KC Concepcion, Lea Salonga, Chiqkoo Pempengco, Mars Nolasco and Hong Seesaw are in the running for the Wannabe Award or Best Celebrity Role Model.

Alexander, Bolipata in special show

CRITICALLY ACCLAIMED, MULTI-AWARD-ed singer-songwriter Cynthia Alexander performs in a special show tonight, 10 p.m. at 19 East in Scout, Panthapuc.

The show, which also features violinist Coke Bolipata, will be recorded live for her fourth album—a celebration of her 10th year as a solo artist. Alexander was one of the pioneers in the local alternative music scene in the late 1980s. Call or text (0917) 805-7279.

'Popfest' at Shangri-La

Clarence Rastrollo sings with the 30-piece De La Salle University Pops Orchestra in "OPM Gives" under The Popfest" today, 5 p.m. at the Grand Atrium, Shangri-La Plaza, Mandaluyong.

The show, a fusion of modern and traditional music, is the second event to be presented by Filipinas, an online downloading site.

CHRISTIAN Bautista

Sitzi's birthday gig

Susan roces singer Sitzi celebrates her birthday with a concert tomorrow at the Captain's Bay, Mandarin Oriental Hotel, Makati.

The show will trace her musical influences from past to present, with a repertoire that includes jazz standards, a Barbra Streisand medley, a Gypsy Rings medley and Jennifer Lopez's "Waiting." Call 750-8888 ext. 2446.

CHRISTOPHER Cruz

UP's 'Live Aids Silver'

THE UP Jamaboree ng mga Magsasaka ni Bernardo.

[Remembered] presents "Live Aids 50-ree: The UP Concert-ial Edition" starring today, tomorrow and Nov. 30, 7 p.m. in the University Theater, UP Diliman, Quezon City.

The show features Tuesday Vargas, Eli Francisco, Mike Ador and the rest of the Live Aids cast. Text Legaspi director, Call 911-5555.

Chris Cross & Workshy

Grammy Award-winning singer-songwriter Christopher Cross performs back-to-back with Workshy featuring Dennis Jones tomorrow at the Araneta Coliseum. Cross had one of the most distinctive pop vocal voices in the 1980s; his self-titled record won four Grammys, including a best new artist at the 1981 Grammys. Workshy is a band known for its smooth jazz sound. Call 911-5555.

Marvi Nalles

Filipina singer Marvi Nalles makes a special appearance in a concert featuring Bobby Kimball of Toto and Brian Cross of Ice-es of Hearts on Dec. 1 at the Aliw Theater, CCP Complex. Many Kimball and Cross are currently on an Asian tour. Nalles, reportedly handpicked by Cassie to guest in the latter's Manila stop, sang the 80 Supply song "Making Love Out of Nothing At All" as the theme song of the UMA 7 rimeravela "My Husband's Woman."

MTV Music Summit

Some 30 artists led by Rico Blanco, Barbie Bethyang, Pearlyn at Edgar, Sandwich, Mother Highway, Bloodlust, Slapduck, The Out of Body Special, are featured in the MTV Singing Alive Music Summit for HIV/Aids on Dec. 3 at the SM Mall of Asia concert grounds, Pasay. Gates open at 3 p.m. The pre-show is at 4 p.m. and the main show is at 6 p.m.

Tonight

The Jolts at "70s Bistro. Call 434-3597.

Bossa 70 at Mody's Bar & Bistro. Call 757-6720 ext 21.

Tokyo By Cars, Cowsbite, Watchout, Yerbes, Good Morning, High Pires, Schizoid and Boss at Saturnyo. Call 897-9829.

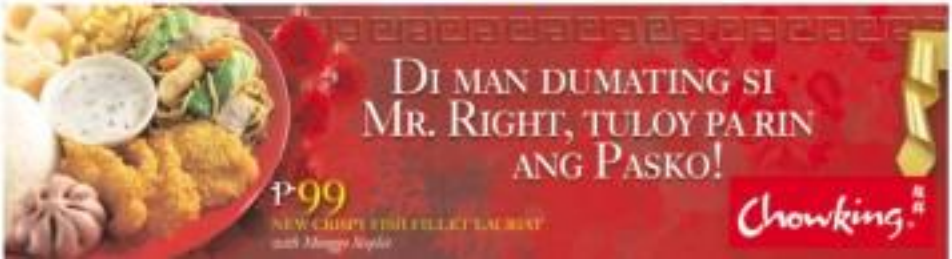
Tomorrow

Razorback at '70s Bistro.

Highway 54 at Mody's Bar & Bistro

Dec. 6

Al Al de las Alas and Erik Santos at Crossroads 77, Shaffer Ignacio Ave, Quezon City

Dec. 10

Wolfgang at Fairwood City Call 911-5555 or email t-kidstuff.com.ph